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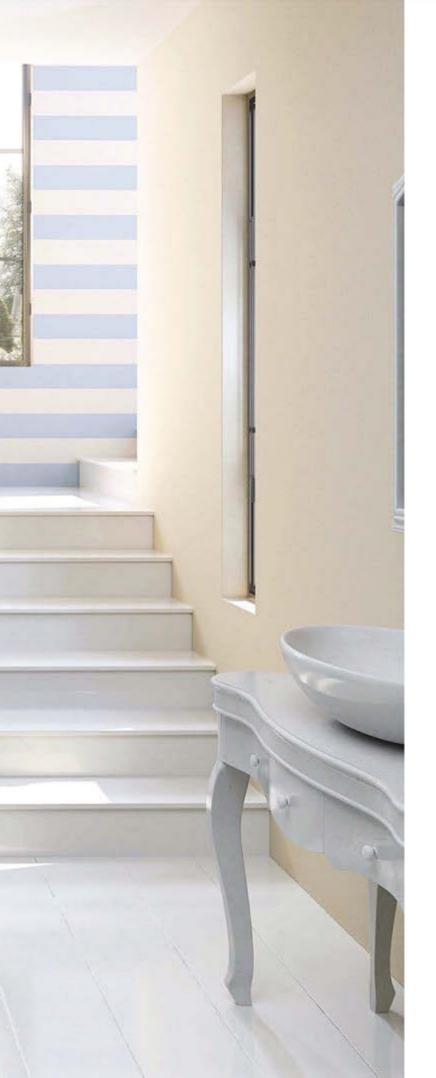
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- Design ideas boot, laundry and flower rooms They can be the hardest working rooms in the house, where the backstage elements of everyday life are hidden from sight. However, as Florence Rolfe shows, this is no reason to scrimp on style
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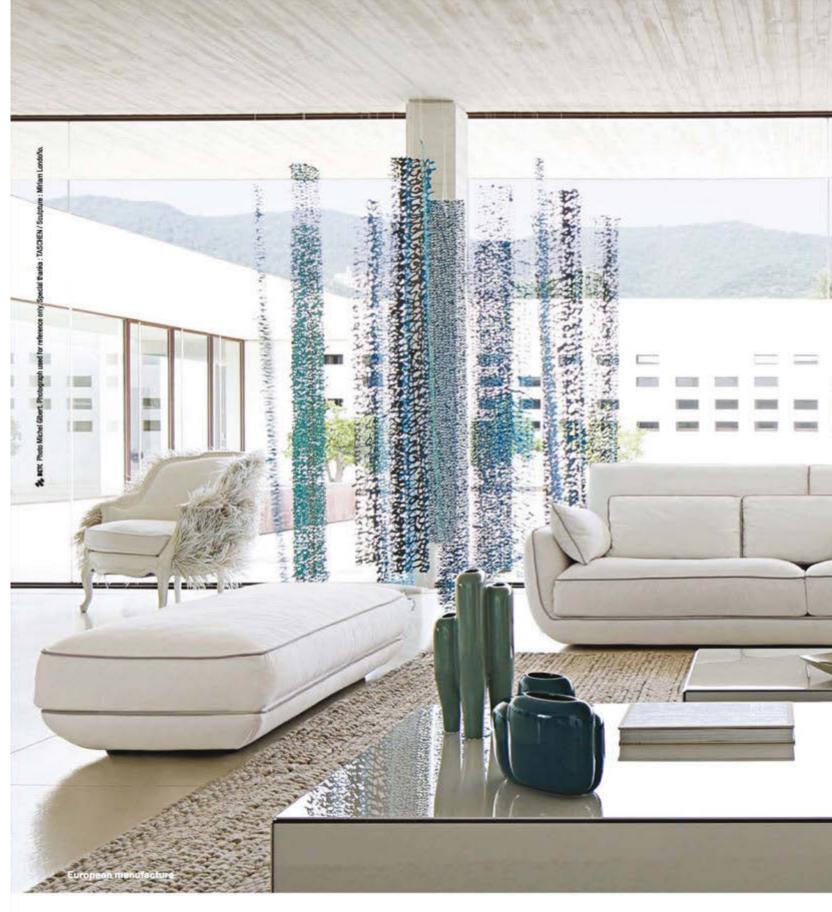


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- 166 Let there be light Tucked away in a leafy area of central Brussels is an unusual building that has been turned into a bright, modern home by its artist owner Isabelle de Borchgrave. By Johanna Thornycroft
- **Simply smart** The challenge for interior designer Penny Morrison at this Victorian terrace was to create a home for a bachelor - without the stereotypical furnishings. By Caroline Clifton-Mogg ⊳

On the cover: An artist's open-plan Brussels home (pages 166-171), photographed by Andreas von Einsiedel. Cover stories are highlighted in colour SUBSCRIBE to House & Garden and get two years for the price of one, plus access to exclusive events (page 126)



Approche large 3-seat sofa, designed by Sacha Lakic.

White Swan armchair, designed by Studio Roche Bobois.

Blok cocktail tables, designed by Studio Roche Bobois.

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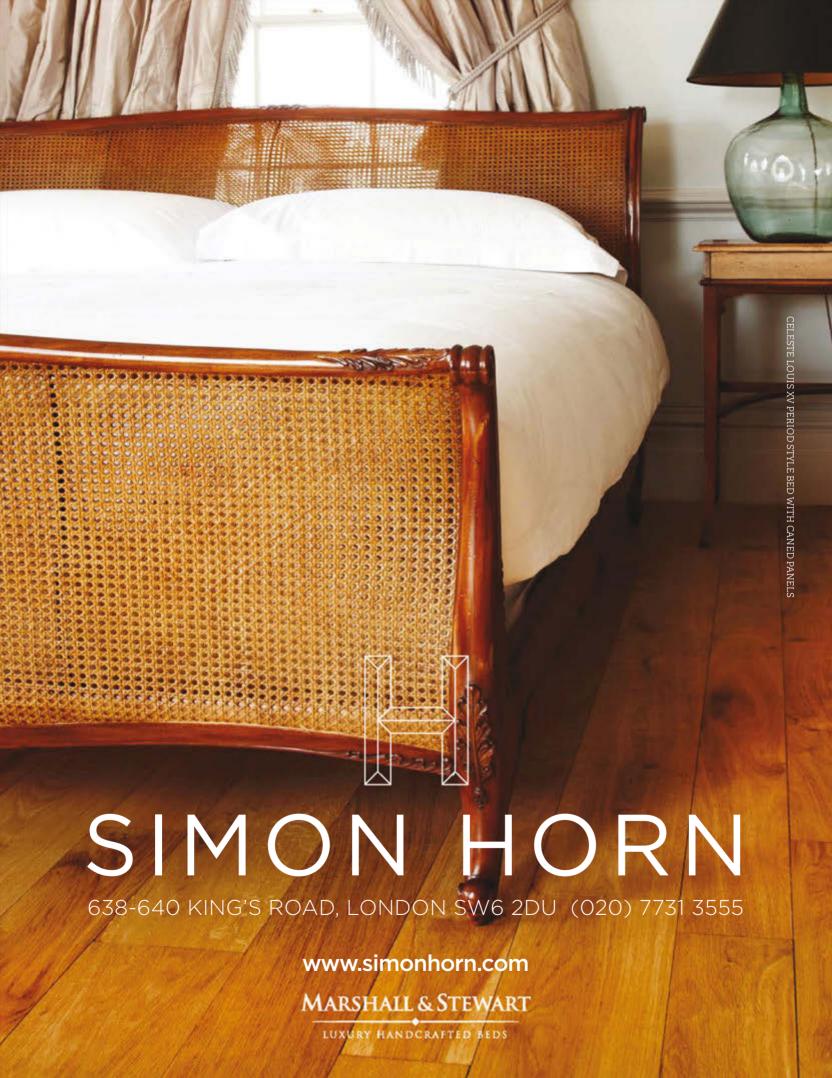




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WINE & FOOD

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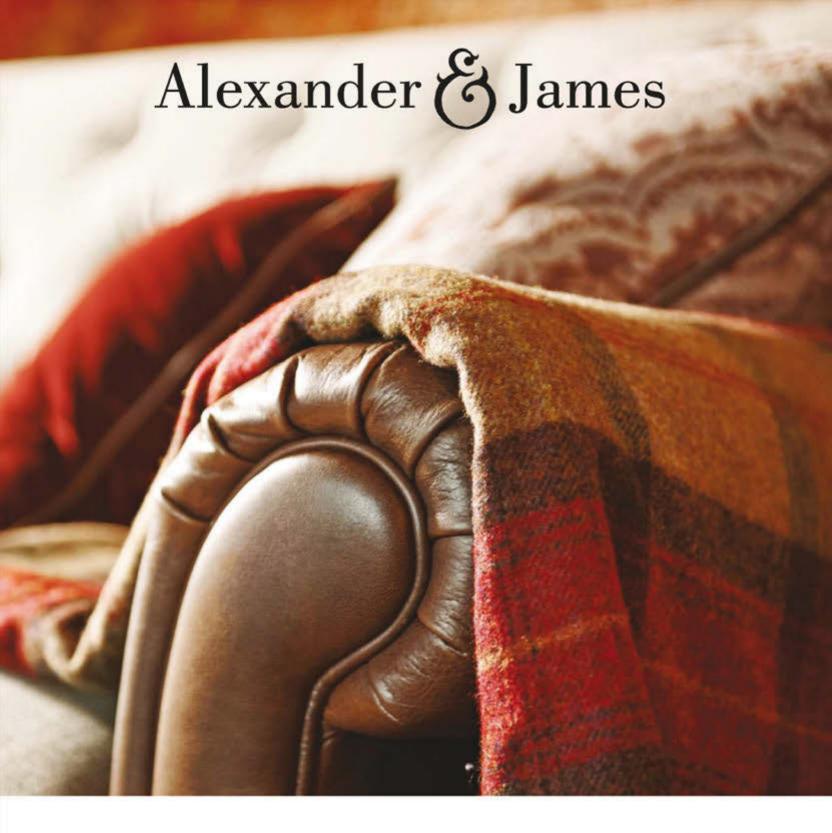








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ISABELLE DE BORCHGRAVE

Artist

Isabelle de Borchgrave was given her first box of paints when she was four and hasn't stopped painting since. She left school at 14 and went to the Centre for Fine Arts in Brussels, where she studied drawing. 'But I am really self-taught,' she says. Her prolific output includes colourful paintings, intricately designed paper sculptures and porcelain pieces. This month, Isabelle and her husband Werner's home - a light-filled space in the centre of Brussels - is shown on page 166.



WILLIAM LINGWOOD

Photographer

Food photographer William Lingwood includes the early-twentieth-century pioneers Ansel Adams, Bill Brandt and Irving Penn among his influences, alongside still-life photographer Tessa Traeger. 'The list goes on,' he says. 'The rest of us have been playing catch-up ever since.' This month, he shot Caroline Barty's wheat-, gluten- and dairy-free

recipes on page 192, as clean, simple shots imbued with 'subtle hints of spring'. William lives in Kent: 'The house was originally two small farm workers' cottages dating from the sixteenth century, and the garden is semi-controlled wildness with a few bulbs thrown in.'

LUCIA VAN DER POST

Writer

Lucia van der Post is decidedly low key about the start to her journalism career. 'With a degree in political philosophy, English literature and language, and absolutely no aptitude for sciences, there wasn't a lot else on offer,' she says. 'Besides, way back when I started, it was one of the few careers that allowed you to rock up well after nine in



the morning.' Lucia lives in London 'between two of its loveliest parks, and with a pocket handkerchief of a garden'. For this issue, she writes about her trip to Botswana on page 198. It was a fitting commission, as she is known to 'head off to Africa's wild places at the slightest provocation'.

PIERS SMERIN

Architect

Even as a child, Piers Smerin was constantly making things. He formalised his interest in architecture with stints at the offices of Zaha Hadid, Norman Foster and Simon Conder, among others. After several years at John McAslan + Partners, he founded Eldridge Smerin in 1998. He now works under his own steam and describes his style as a 'fusion of bold ideas with attention to the smallest detail; like a Savile Row suit, this results in something understatedly elegant in appearance and enjoyable to live in'. Turn to page 154 to see his design for a house in Sussex





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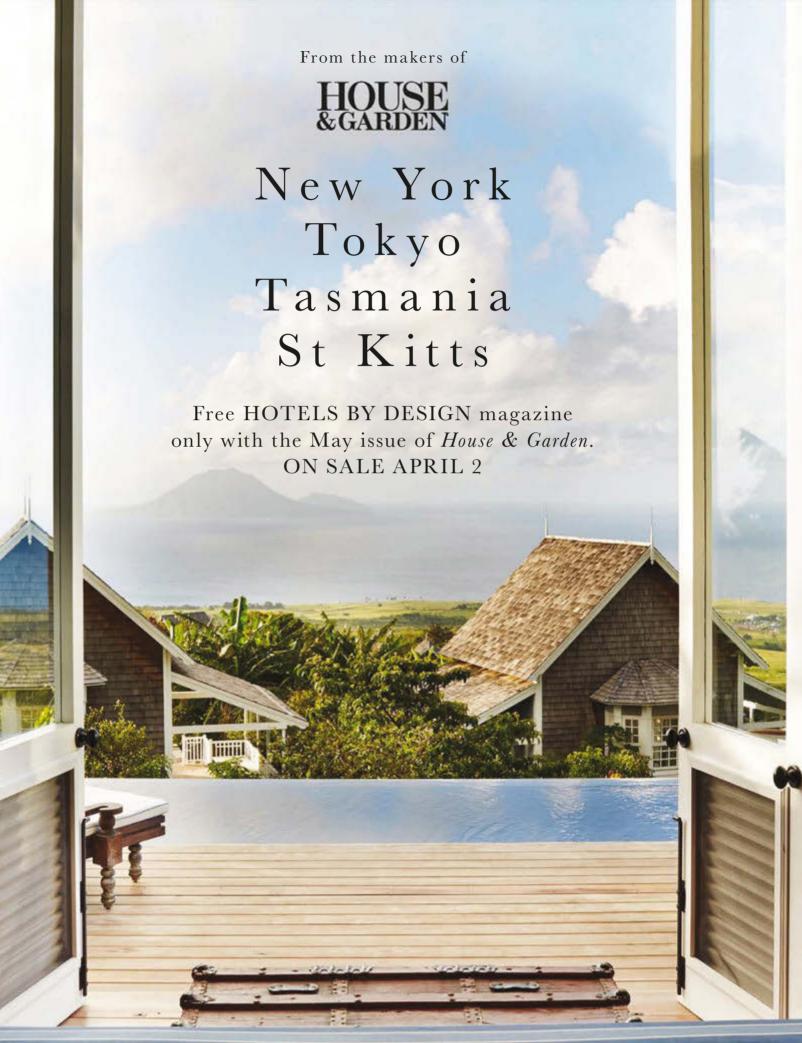
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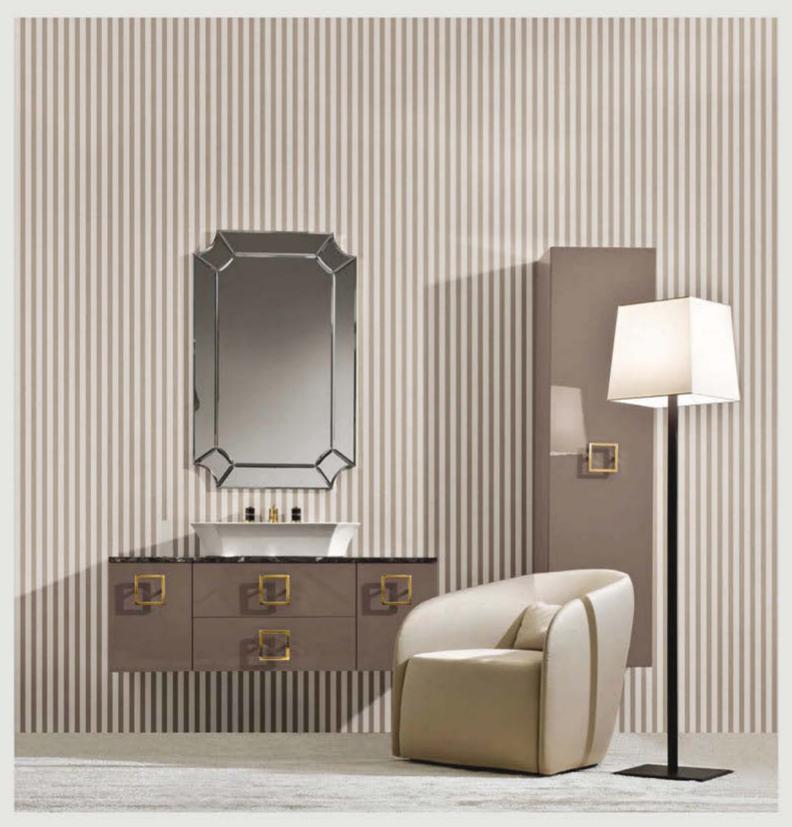
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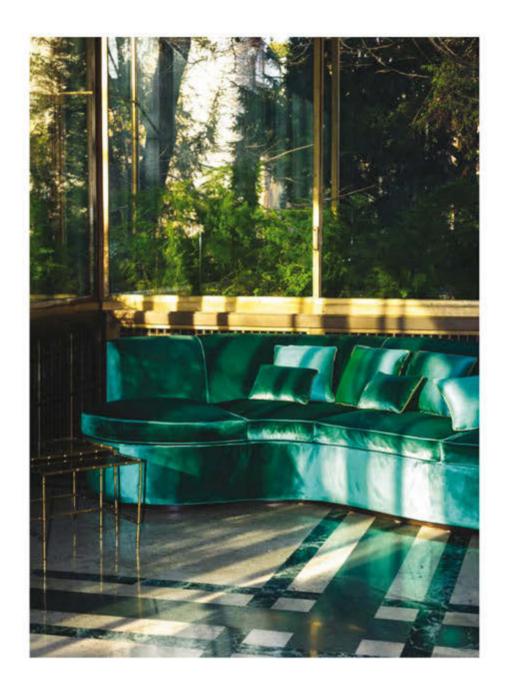
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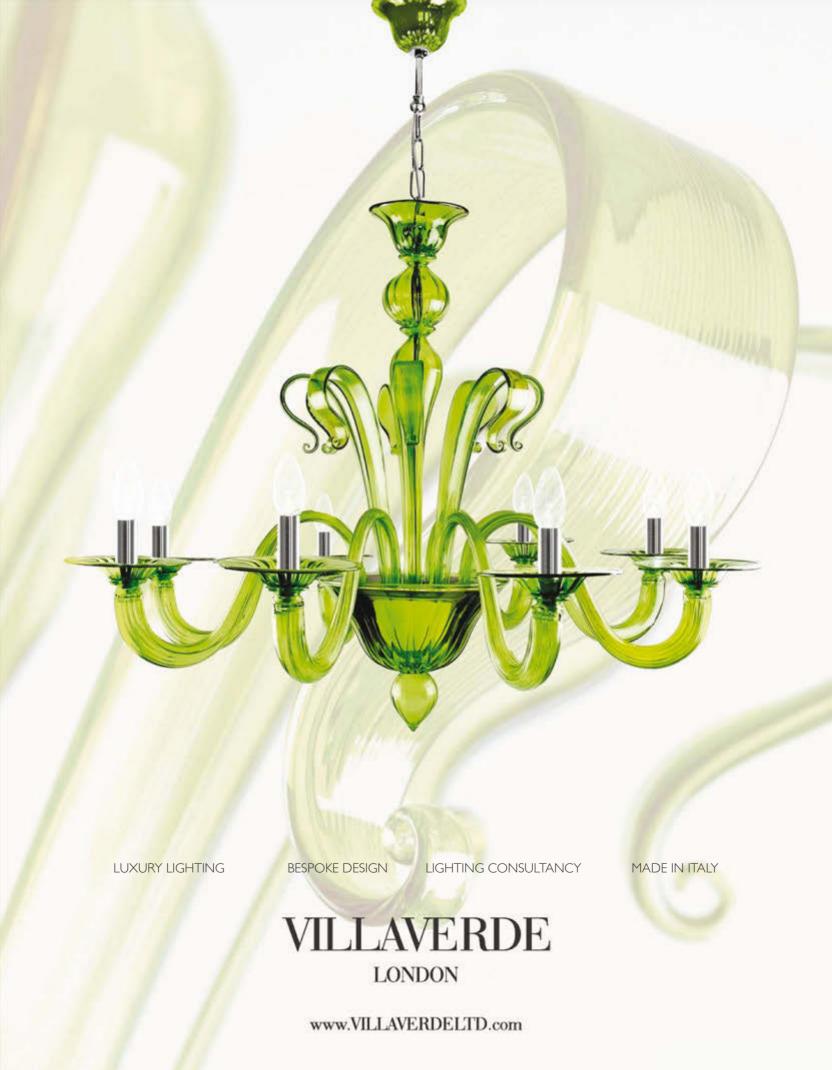




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EDITOR'S LETTER



I'm not sure I would ever have the guts to build a house from scratch, partly because I like the character and warmth that patina and age bring, but mostly because, if I'm being honest with myself, I find it easier to get my head around improving what's there than starting with a blank canvas. Choosing the architectural style and form that such a house would take would cause all sorts of agony. There would be endless disagreements with my husband for a start.

So I'm in awe of the owners of the strikingly modern house on page 154, which, as the writer acknowledges, stands as a lone example of its kind in the area. Not only have the owners, and their architect Piers Smerin, created a bold architectural statement, but it is also sympathetically linked, through its materials and shape, to the barns that are dotted around the surrounding landscape. They have got exactly what they wanted in terms of practical needs – so much so that the house is now used not just for weekends, as they first intended, but as their main home.

I have also always marvelled at our decoration team's never-ending ability to come up with clever ways to display fabrics and wallpapers – and

to pull them off, however ambitious they seem. March marks London Design Week 2015 at the Design Centre Chelsea Harbour and the launch of new fabric collections. So for this month's 'Swatch', Ruth Sleightholme and Florence Rolfe have created what are in effect giant versions of the puzzle games you may have played as a child, where you tilt the board to direct a ball around a maze. Here, the balls are 70cm in diameter and the 'walls' of the maze are 120cm high. The result, between pages 45 and 52, is fun and striking.

Such is the nature of magazines that the *House & Garden* team are producing this April issue in deepest, darkest winter. But, though I love winter, it is comforting to think that it will not be long before the days are getting longer and warmer, and leaves are appearing on the trees. Indeed, the garden pages in this issue are all about spring flowers, including Clare Foster's ideas on what plants to combine with tulips on page 84 and her article on page 186 about Summerdale Garden & Nursery in the Lake District, which sells over 300 varieties of jewel-like auriculas.

For those focusing on the interiors of their house, this month's 'Design ideas', between pages 65 and 72, looks at boot rooms, flower rooms and laundry rooms — all firmly indoors but nevertheless closely linked to life outdoors and the garden. Our own London home has none of these rooms, but I certainly aspire to have all three of them one day, or at the very least a room that combines all three functions. So I have loved poring over all the good ideas that Florence has found.

A well-designed utility room seems a plausible dream, but I hope that, as well as providing useful advice, there is plenty in this issue to inspire thought and bravery when it comes to your own houses and gardens \Box

Hatta Byng

*

Follow us on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and Pinterest, and for more decoration inspiration, visit www.houseandgarden.co.uk

Fabric background: 'Florence', Fleurons d'Hélène, at Tissus d'Hélène





decorator's notebook • swatch • shopping

4

Decorator's notebook

Gabby Deeming shows us what's caught her eye this month

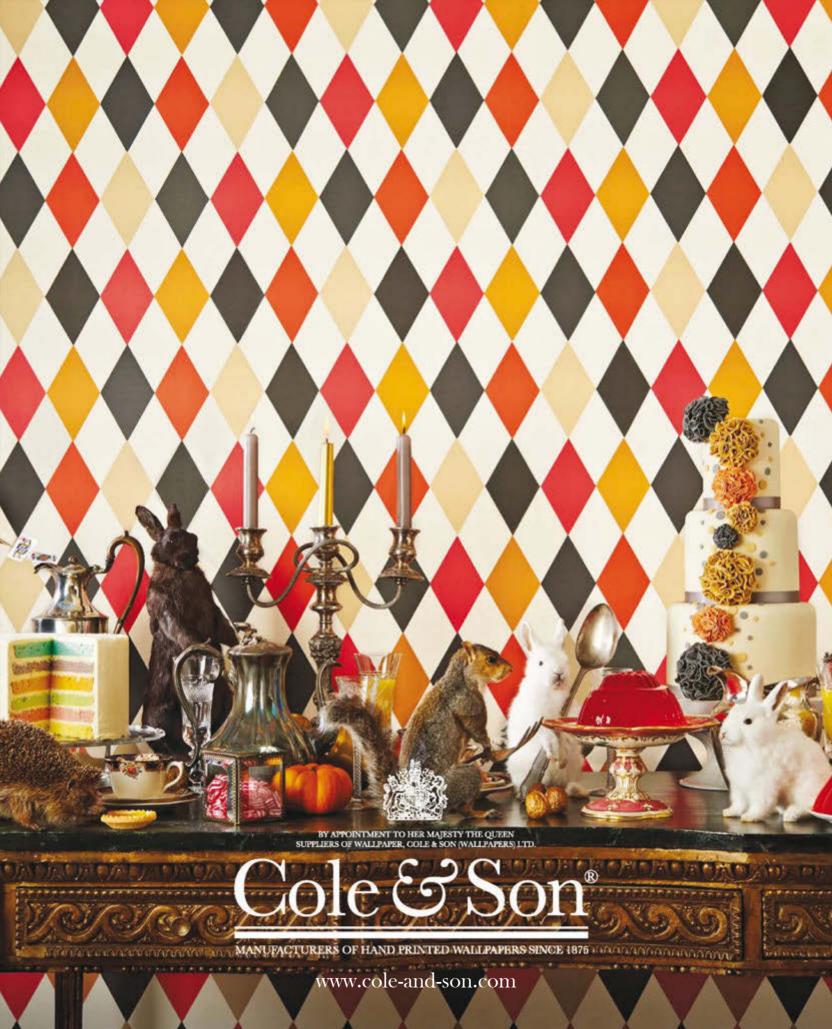
1 Glass and powder **hourglass**, by Bitossi Home, 24 x 10cm diameter, £29.95, at Selfridges. **2** Silk and wool hand-tufted **carpet**, from top: 'Black and Mint Arrows' and 'Mint Arches', both £465 a square metre, at Stark Carpet. **3 Border**, 'Labyrinth' (from left: cilantro, azure and goldenrod), cotton mix, 6.35cm wide, £65 a metre, at Samuel &

Sons. **4** Polished-brass and steel **wall light**, 'Opus', 167 x 12 x 61cm, £1,920, at Cox London. **5 Fabric**, 'Expedition' (from left: kilimanjaro and everest), linen, £140 a metre, at de Le Cuona. **6** Patinated, textured-bronze and leather **banquette**, 'Shaari' (dark green), 60 x 120 x 46.2cm, £16,700, at Francis Sultana. *For suppliers' details*, see *Stockists page* ⊳









The Whimsical Collection Punchinello 103/2006.



esign Centre, Chelsea Harbour is a treasure trove of design gems. This spring, patterns prevail in fabrics, accessories and wall papers and colours are bold. Statement lighting and eye-catching rugs are great for adding focus to big rooms, while contemporary furniture with a sculptural aesthetic is striking and simple in form. I like the idea of daring patterns and contrasting textures working alongside one another, be it the organic, hand-painted 'Labyrinth' rug from Edelman Leather, the 'Beechgrove' wallpaper from Sanderson or Fromental's beautiful 'Rockface' hand-dyed lacquered paper. Form and function combine harmoniously throughout.

THE EDIT

House & Garden's acting editor, Gabby Deeming, hand-picks her favourite pieces from the spring

6

collections at Design Centre, Chelsea Harbour



1 Hand-painted hide, 'Labyrinth' (asphalt grey on silverado), Selvaggia Armani for Edelman Leather. 020-7351 7305; www.edelmanleather.com 2 Hand-dyed wallpaper, 'Rockface', (el capitan), Fromental at Lelièvre. 020-

7352 4798; www.lelievre.eu

3 Globe pendants, brass or chrome finish, medium or large, Original BTC. 020-7351 2130; www.originalbtc.com 4 Wallpaper, 'Beechgroves' (from left: duck egg/chalk and teal/gold), Sanderson. 0844-543 9500; www.sanderson-uk.com 5 Himalayan rug, 'Ecailles Degrade' (petrol), CC-Tapis at Poliform. 020-7368 7600; www.poliformuk. com/cctapis 6 Glass/oak, desks, 'Diapositive', Glas Italia at Interior Supply. 020-7352 0502; www.interiorsupply.co.uk 7 Fabric, 'Ayda', (04824/02), Manuel Canovas at Colefax and Fowler. 020-7351 0666; www.colefax.com

7





A maze of balls

Ruth Sleightholme and Florence Rolfe have fun with fabrics from the new collections

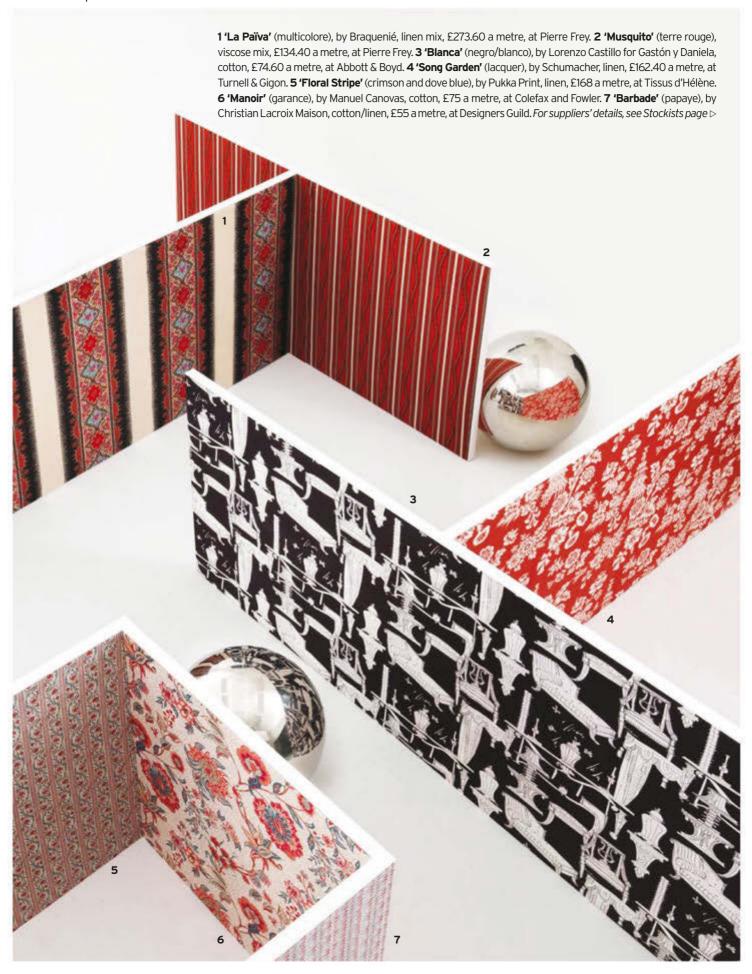


1'Felicity' (multi), by Oscar de la Renta, cotton/silk, £220 a metre, at G P & J Baker. 2 'Kontti' (920), by Jenni Tuominen, cotton, £39 a metre, at Marimekko. 3 'Bengali' (havane), linen/viscose, £92 a metre, from Lalie Design. 4 'Välikausi' (13), by Erkki Toukolehto, cotton, £39 a metre, at Marimekko. 5 'Zulu' (saffron), by Martyn Lawrence Bullard, cotton, £206 a metre, at Tissus d'Hélène. 6 'Faria Flowers' (marigold), cotton-mix velvet, £80 a metre, at Liberty. 7 'Javier' (amarillo), by Lorenzo Castillo for Gastón y Daniela, cotton, £74.60 a metre, at Abbott & Boyd. For suppliers' details, see Stockists page ▷

insider | swatch









insider | swatch





insider | swatch

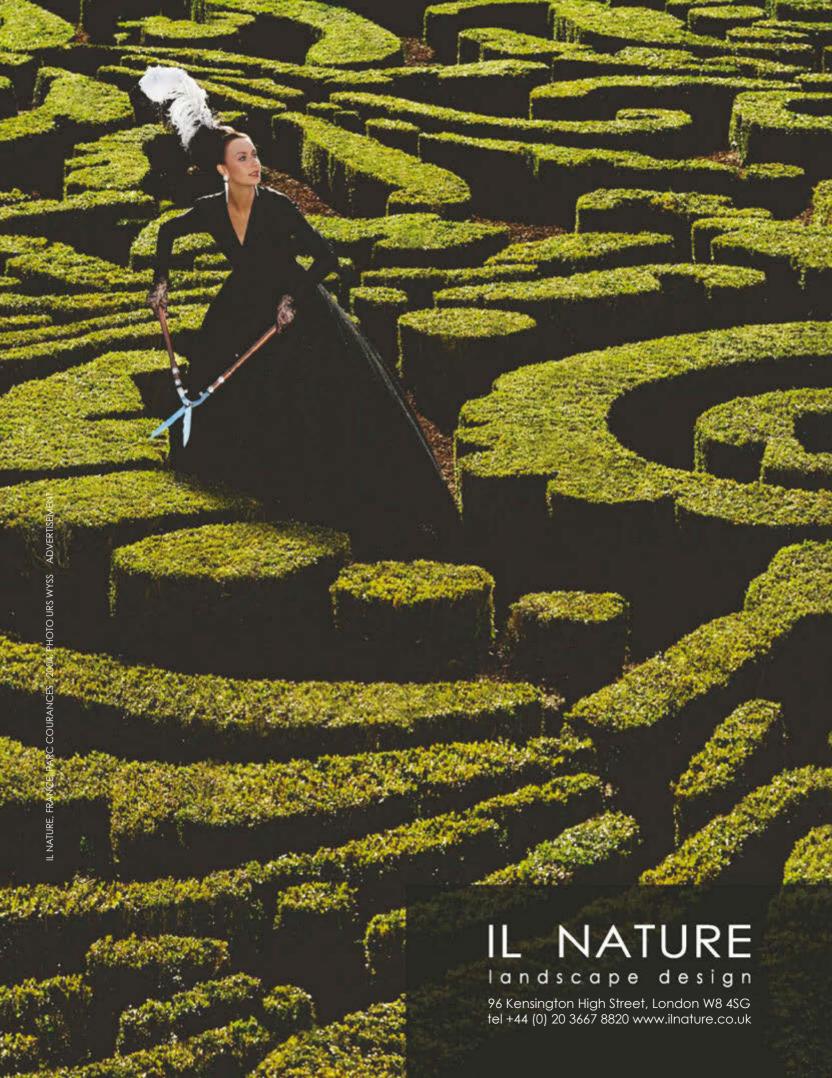


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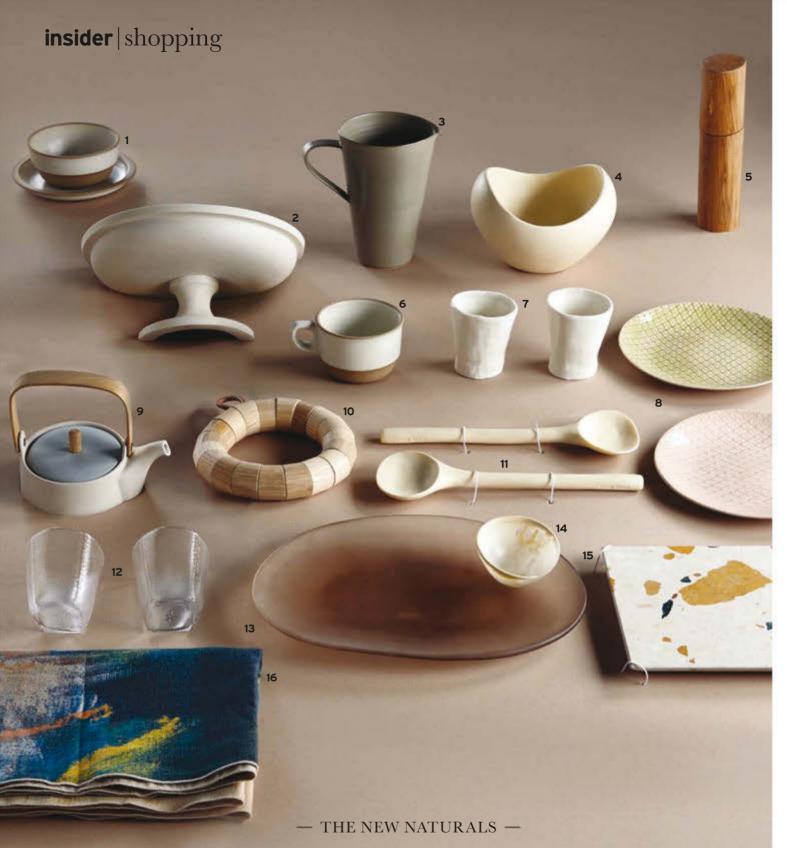
Changing places

Ruth Sleightholme selects the latest tableware in a variety of patterns and materials for smart settings

— EARTH, FIRE AND WATER COLOURS —

1 Faience tableware, 'Mélange': plate, £189, and 2 platter, £176; at Willer. 3 Terracotta biscuit barrel, by Reiko Kaneko, £85, at SCP. 4 Earthenware cereal bowl (slate), by Brickett Davda, £26, at Holly's House. 5 Stoneware plates: 'Brown Crisscross', and 6 'Brown/Green', £44 each; at Irving & Morrison. 7 Stoneware, 'Sicilia' (bleu vintage):

plate, €29, and 9 beaker, €16; from Sarah Lavoine. 8 Stoneware dinner plate, 'Cornflowers', £20.50, at Blue Dot Pottery. 10 Terracotta pitcher, £58, at Another Country. 11 and 13 Stoneware bowls, by Makoto Kagoshima, £65 each, at Gallery Eclectic. 12 Stoneware bowl (celadon), £92, at Willer. 14 Cotton napkin, 'Fern' (bottle green), £5, at Irving & Morrison. 15 Linen napkins, 'Window' (charcoal), £30 for four, at Holly's House. 16 Glass and leather carafe, 'Wrap', by Simon Hasan, £195, at SCP. 17 Brushed-silver cutlery, 'Pott 86', by Josef Hoffmann: fork, £320, knife, £225, and spoon, £320; at Willer. 18 Maple bowl, £42, from Reiko Kaneko. For suppliers' details, see Stockists page ▷



1 Earthenware set, 'Koichi': plate, £19, and bowl, £19: at Toast. 2 Porcelain fruit stand, by John Julian, £295, at The New Craftsmen. 3 Semiporcelain stoneware water jug (charcoal), by Stuart Carey, £120, at The New Craftsmen. 4 Resin bowl, 'Beetle' (ivory), £165, at Dinosaur Designs. **5** Spalted-beech **pepper mill**, €195, from Makers & Brothers. 6 Earthenware mug, 'Koichi', £19, at Toast. **7** Stoneware mugs, by

Iva Polachova, £45 each, at Summerill & Bishop. **8** Stoneware side plates, 'Lace Mesh' (from top: irish green and pink), by Wonki Ware, £15 each, from The Conran Shop. 9 Porcelain teapot with steam-bent oak handle, 'Mr & Mrs', £80, from Sue Pryke. 10 Ash and leather trivet, by Superfolk, €38, from Makers & Brothers. 11 Resin salad servers, 'Temple' (ivory), £85 a pair, at Dinosaur Designs. 12 Glass tumblers, 'Tela', by Silo Studio for Hay, £12 each, at Twentytwentyone. 13 Resin platter, 'Temple' (brown), £120; and 14 resin gelato cup, 'Flow' (ivory swirl), £40; both at Dinosaur Designs. 15 Engineered-stone board, 'Marmoreal', by Max Lamb for Dzek, €180, from Makers & Brothers. 16 Linen table runner, 'Iguazu', by Haby Bonomo, €177, from Geneviève Lévy Edition. For suppliers' details, see Stockists page ⊳

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insider | shopping

- SPOT THE CONTRAST -

1 Porcelain cake stand, £125, and 2 platter, £110; by Paola Navone for Reichenbach, at The Conran Shop. 3 Porcelain bowl, 'Cobra', by Constantin Wortmann, £16, from Georg Jensen. 4 Cast-aluminium bowl, 'Standing' (white), by Fort Standard, £75, at SCP. 5 Porcelain espresso cups, 'Simple', £16 each, at Folklore. 6 Porcelain: creamer, £42, and **7 jug**, £48; both by Paola Navone for Reichenbach, at The Conran Shop. 8 Brass napkin rings, 'Hexagon', by Ferm Living, £42 for a set of 4, at Twentytwentyone. 9 Reduction-fired-stoneware plate, £85, from Karen Bunting. 10 Brass salt or pepper mills, 'Italic' (brass and black), by Michael Anastassiades for Carl Auböck, £400 each, from Sigmar. 11 Bone-china bowl, 'Fold', £17, from Reiko Kaneko. 12 Stainless-steel and gold-plated porcelain cutlery, 'Prelude', by J L Coquet: fork, £110, knife, £112, and spoon, £102; from Harlequin. 13 Cotton/linen napkin, 'London' (black), £8.40, at Etoile Home. 14 Porcelain teacup and saucer set, 'Carrara', by Dibbern, £55.94, at Evitavonni. For suppliers' details, see Stockists page \Box









Join us at our exclusive reader event



MEET THE EXPERTS FROM HOUSE & GARDEN AND MARKS & SPENCER and discover how to create beautiful living spaces at home, using the current trends in home styling

House & Garden is delighted to invite readers to an exclusive evening of inspiration and discount shopping opportunities at the flagship M&S store in Westfield, W12. Join us for drinks, canapés and home styling advice from the people who not only know about next season's trends, but help set them.



TO BOOK YOUR TICKETS

The event will take place at M&S, Westfield, W12 on May 14, 2015 from 6.30pm to 8.30pm. Tickets cost £15 and include a gift bag. To book, send a cheque payable to 'Marks and Spencer', with your name, address, telephone number and email address to Natasha Long, Bespoke Reader Events, House & Garden, Vogue House, Hanover Square, London W1S 1JU, by Tuesday May 5.





boot ROOMS Stop the great outdoors

from getting in: four ways to create a smart effect





Denise Davies, owner of D2 Interieurs, has taken inspiration from traditional steel lockers to create a striking space to hang coats, complete with a bench and smaller pigeonholes for shoes and bags. Yellow gloss paint creates a bold background for the stored items. www.d2interieurs.com

If you're pushed for space, consider using a cupboard to create a compact boot room. All the essentials are included in this space by Braams Custom Cabinets. www.braams.ca



A bank of open and adjustable shelving to house Wellington boots looks smart in this boot room by John Sims-Hilditch, co-founder of Neptune, who says, 'Adjustable shelves are essential, as they let you make space for bulkier or taller items.' www.neptune.co.uk >

Heat

farms.com

Ham Interiors have plumbed copper piping to the wall and attached 'S' hooks for hanging damp items. www.haminteriors.com



WINE IS ART. PRESERVE IT.



oom

This flower room by Plain English has been created with a florist in mind. The large concrete butler's sink and stone flooring are practical choices and also make the room feel cool. www.plainenglish design.com



flower ROOMS

'For a proper flower room, a stone floor with good drainage for all the spills and no heating is best, along with lots of shelves, deep sinks, a hose pipe, endless jugs, jars and pots, and a hanging rack for drying out the beautiful seed heads.' Vic Brotherson of Scarlet & Violet

www.scarletandviolet.com





In this well-considered room, the owners have created additional storage space by incorporating an overhead hanging rack that can be used for drying flowers, plus the 'grill' style shelving is great for drainage. For similar vintage galvanised baskets, try www.elemental.uk.com. ▷



This laundry room has been elevated above the purely functional to a beautifully decorated space complete with framed pictures and a smart colour scheme. As seen in this room designed by De Rosee Sa Architects, a Sheila Maid clothes dryer is a great solution for keeping the floor clear in a small space with a reasonable ceiling height. These are available to buy from www.gardentrading.com.



laundry ROOMS

Achieve domestic bliss by keeping even the smallest spaces organised



Designate an area for hanging washed clothes and use baskets on wheels to manoeuvre laundry. For extra drying space, a pull-out drying rack fitted on to the wall is a good idea, as seen in this utility room designed by Von Fitz Design. For something similar, try www.pulleymaid.com.



With a bespoke concrete sink and wall-to-wall wooden panelling concealing storage, this modern utility area designed by Katie Fontana, creative director of Plain English, is beautifully finished in simple materials. 'I prefer to design cupboards rather than open shelving where possible to conceal certain items,' she says. She recommends natural-stone or stone-composite worktops in a laundry room as 'they are easier to maintain than wood'. www.plainenglishdesign.com



4

Allow practical elements and appliances to blend in with the rest of the units; there is nothing to suggest that a washing machine and dryer are hidden behind this smart cabinetry by DeVOL. www.devolkitchens.co.uk>

LINWOOD

Fabrics & Wallpapers







Prevent shoulder bumps in your clothes with this inflatable hanger, 42 x 34 x 12cm, €9.50, from Perigot. www.perigot.fr Soap is always to hand with this 'Rotating Soap Holder', £26, at Labour and Wait

Keep moths away from precious jumpers with this cedarblock set, £3.95 for a set of 20, at Muji. www.muji.eu





Make the most of space with this maple and aluminium foldable clothes rail, 22.5 x 66 (maximum extension) x 4cm, £262, from Manufactum. www.manufactum.co.uk

This galvanised-metal doormat

is good for muddy boots, 32 x

60cm, £32, at Garden Trading.

Lighten your washing load with this powdercoated-iron laundry basket on castors, 'Brooklyn', 38 x 45.7 x 28cm, £35, at John Lewis. www.johnlewis.com

FINISHING TOUCHES

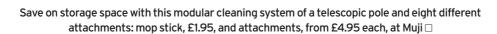
The bits and bobs that will make your utility room work harder – so you don't have to

Oak foot scraper and bootjack, by Redecker, £145, at The Conran Shop. www.conranshop.co.uk

clean, woven-plastic runner in the utility area; it's available in four different lengths. 'Pappelina Honey Black & Vanilla', from £62 for 100 x 70cm, at Hus & Hem. www. husandhem.co.uk

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design ideas on decorating



A sofa will ideally be with

you for a long time and a

good one should serve

a few more generations

here are few things worse than an uncomfortable sofa – that rude shock of being repelled by the very cushions you were hoping to sink back into. I believe that a sofa is one of the greatest furniture commitments you make; even cheap sofas cost a lot of money and they are hard to get rid of, so it's worth getting it right the first time. A sofa will ideally be with you for a long time and a good one should serve a few more generations – an inherited sofa can even improve with age.

My advice is to always buy the best that you can possibly afford – and even to try to spend a little more. Whenever I manage to persuade any of my clients to buy good (expensive) sofas, they might have baulked, moaned and cried at the cost, but you can be

sure it is the one that has everyone fighting to sit on it.

Some of the best sofas come from Howard Chairs (howardchairs.freeserve.co.uk), which has been in business since 1820. They are expensive, but they have a good secondary market, fetching crazy money at auctions and in antique shops. Most people are unaware the company is still hand-making sofas to traditional designs in Camden for less than you can acquire them at Christie's. It will measure you for a chair so that it fits to your figure, which is why when you see pairs of chairs up for auction, there is often one larger than the other, as they were fitted for a husband and wife.

Cushions filled with 100 per cent down are considered the most luxurious, although it is more common to be offered 60/40 feather and down. Down cushions need plumping up a lot, so they are not ideal for those keen on neat-looking sofas and low on domestic staff. When you are buying a cheapish sofa, a good trick for comfort is to go for an upholstered back and add your own cushions so you can control the quality.

George Sherlock (www.georgesherlock.com) has a sofa similar in shape to Howard Chairs's 'Ingleby' and 'Burling-

ton' – the 'Sherlock'; I also like the 'Extended Mac' two-seater. All its sofas are handmade and you can order them in custom sizes. I'd recommend asking for seat cushions with 60 per cent filling, as they tend to be stuffed to the brim. I prefer cushions to be about 60

per cent full as I find over-stuffed ones uncomfortable.

Good sofas improve with age as the cushions get sat on more and more, and they soften. When you get an old one reupholstered, be careful who you get to do it and what you ask for, as something that is soft and cosy can come back with very tight springs and over-stuffed cushions, feeling quite different from when it left. A language tip: 'to reupholster' means that you want it taken back to the frame and almost remade – not what you want if you are happy with the way your sofa feels; while 'to re-cover' a sofa is to change the fabric, and that is often all you need \Box

SMART SEATS



'Spaniel', 79 x 160 x 90cm, £7,800 excluding fabric, at Howe (lead time 10-12 weeks). This is a fabulously comfortable and pretty sofa: I love how delicate the arms are. Howe will also make sofas to a custom size. www.howelondon.com



'Carmen', 72 x 185 x 95cm, £4,508 excluding fabric, from Pierre Frey (lead time 8-12 weeks). This has an upholstered seat and back, but is incredibly comfortable. For a more traditional design, try 'Sandrine'. www.pierrefrey.com



'Oswald', from £1,260 excluding fabric, at Upholstery Techniques (lead time 4-5 weeks - trade only). The frames are handmade, so the sizes and cushion fillings can be customised. www.upholstery-techniques.com

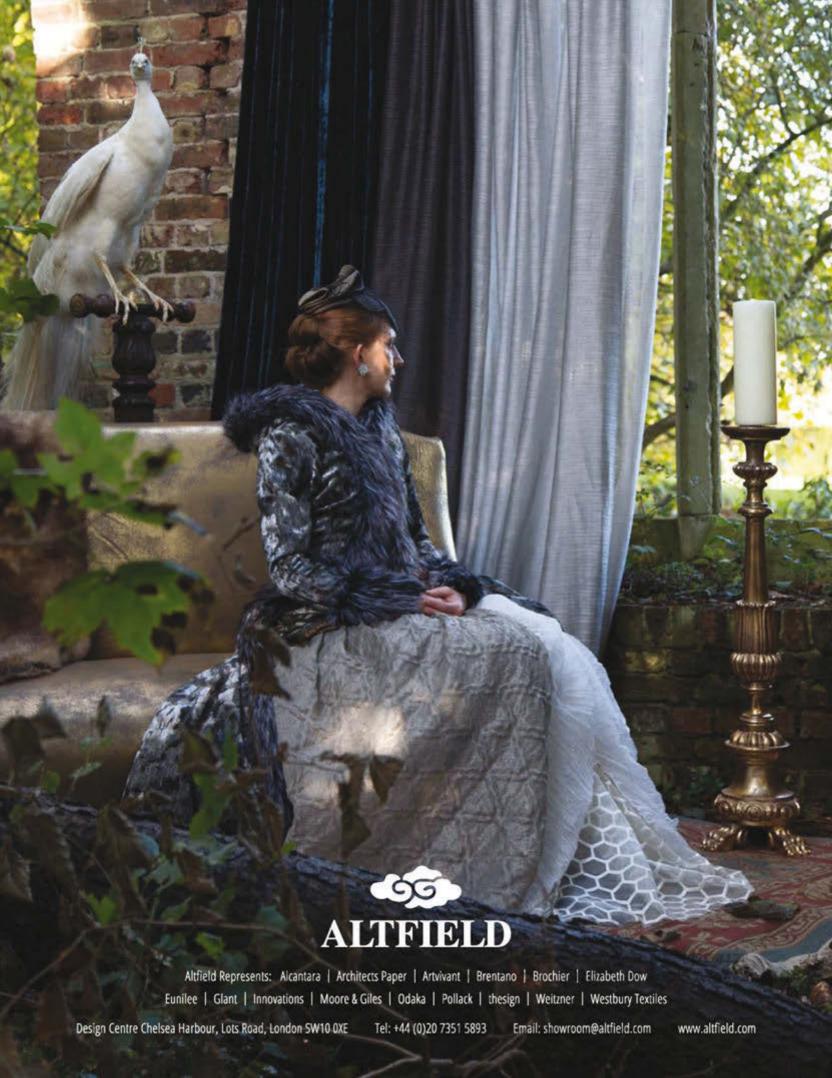


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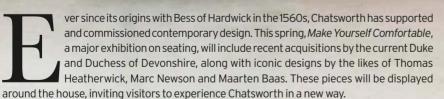
CARPENTERS WORKSHOP GALLERY

News

update • outside interests • out and about

SEAT ART

Jessica Doyle looks at an exhibition of contemporary seating at Chatsworth House, and reviews other news and events



'Every duke has been a contemporary collector, so there's something very interesting about the journey as you walk through what was considered at the time to be contemporary art,' says Shay Alkalay, one half of London design duo Raw Edges, who have been commissioned to create a new piece for the sculpture gallery. Their creation, *Endgrain*, a temporary wooden mosaic floor from which seating elements emerge organically much like tree trunks, is seen in the form of stools and benches. 'Make Yourself Comfortable at Chatsworth' will be at Chatsworth House in Derbyshire from March 28 to October 23 (www.chatsworth.org) ▷

ABOVE Lathe V by Sebastian Brajkovic. RIGHT A rendering of Raw Edge's mosaic Endgrain benches and stools, which will be displayed throughout the sculpture gallery at Chatsworth





Karen Howes, founder of interior-design firm Taylor Howes, tells us about her new lighting collection for The Urban Electric Company, which handmakes its lights in Charleston, South Carolina

Why Urban Electric? We've worked together for years and share the same ethos. Both companies have a friendly, family vibe, which makes it easy to work together.

What inspired the collection? Our creative director Sandra Drechsler and I wanted to include a combination of traditional and modern influences that have become synonymous with London's architecture and lifestyle.

How would you describe the style? A mix: some are traditional designs that have been updated with interesting finishes, while 'Karen' (above left) and 'Betty' (above right) are contemporary pieces with industrial elements.

What is your favourite lighting design? I love innovative designers such as Lee Broom -my favourite at the moment is his 'Tube' light piece, made of marble and brushed brass.

What's next? Sandra and I are currently working on a furniture range, launching in late spring. www.taylorhowes.co.uk | www. urbanelectricco.com



TROPICAL DELIGHT

An architectural motif from the seventeenth century, pineapples are also a symbol of hospitality—hence *House & Garden*'s annual Pineapple Award, given out in conjunction with our *Hotels by Design* magazine, which comes with the May issue. We're impressed by the new 'Pineapple' wallpaper, £78 for a 10-metre roll, from Barneby Gates, Soane's lamp, £2,300, and the 'Totally Tropical Pineapple Doorknob', spotted online at Rockett St George for £20. Shop the look at www.houseandgarden.co.uk/pineapples.



GOOD SCENTS

With a background in the City, Amelia Fawcett has a nose for business—which is why, when the lavender she planted at her farm in the Usk Valley in Wales in 2013 tripled in bulk in just six weeks, she decided to do 'something different' with it. The result is the launch of Chilcott, a collection of luxurious, British-made blankets, cushions and hot-water-bottle covers, each of which comes with an attached lavender bag. 'The idea is that when you lean against them, you get the scent of lavender,' she says. www.chilcottuk.com



Fans of the Danish design company Hay — well known for its pared-back but playful furniture and accessories — will be delighted to hear that it has recently taken over a large space on the fourth floor of Liberty. It's being billed as a 'long-term pop-up shop' and will run until autumn. Shown here are three of the 'Kaleido' steel nestling trays by the Swedish designer Clara von Zweigbergk, f (14.50 (small), f (34.95 (medium), and f (65 (large). www.liberty.co.uk | www.hay.dk f



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EMILY PATRICK **PAINTINGS**

March 10-27 at Gallery 8, 8 Duke Street, SW1 The British painter known for her atmospheric figurative work shows a collection of recent still lifes and flower paintings. Pictured Marmite Butter and Guinness. www. emilypatrick.com

DIARY

This month's events and exhibitions



MIDCENTURY MODERN SHOW

March 15 at Dulwich College, Dulwich Common, SE21 A mecca for lovers of mid-century style, with over 85 dealers selling iconic collectables, plus a selection of contemporary accessories from young British designers. Admission, £9. Pictured 'Smile Table' by Johannes Andersen. www.modernshows.com



Chelsea Old Town Hall, King's Road, SW3 A small, accessible fair with art and decorative antiques from £50 into the thousands. Join one of the guided tours for tips on collecting. Admission, £6. Pictured Portrait of Bessie by Walford

Graham Robertson. www.penman-fairs.



co.uk

March 18-24 at Duke of York Square, SW3 More than 90 of the UK's best dealers sell furniture, objets d'art and paintings, with highlights including works by Graham Sutherland and John Piper, modern British ceramics, chinoiserie and folk furniture. Admission, £10. Pictured Ruby lustre charger by William De Morgan. www.bada-antiques-fair.co.uk

WEBWATCH

Table lamps

1 Lighting specialist Pooky (www.pooky. 1 com) offers a mix-and-match service, so you can choose a base and then pick a shade from a wide variety of designs. The 'Bobboli' base, £100, is pictured below with a hand-blocked shade, £54, but the range includes bases from as little as f.40. Delivery and returns are free.

OFor something elegant and luxe, **L** check out the metallic designs at www.charlesburnand.com, including this Seventies Italian lamp, £1,500 for a pair.

O SCP (www.scp.co.uk) is a one-stop **3** shop for modern statement lamps by designers such as Philippe Starck. Pictured here is his 'K Tribe T2', £640.

4 Though best known for hand-painted shades, Cressida Bell also hand paints wooden lamp bases. Available in three sizes - urn (below), carafe and vase - they are £120, pictured here with the 'Paisley Leaf' shade, £,69.50, made to order from www.cressidabell.com.



LIFE-CHANGING DESIGN

The ethos at the KLC School of Design is that good interiors and gardens aren't just about aesthetics – a notion it is expanding on with the launch of its Design Changes Lives Foundation. KLC is focusing on both inspiring young designers in schools and enhancing buildings and gardens for healing and care. With this in mind, a bursary, starting in January 2016, will be offered to outstanding students who lack the funds to study at the school. 'Design is fun, glamorous and exciting, but people sometimes forget what a responsible thing it is and what it means in people's lives,' says Jenny Gibbs, KLC's founder and principal. 'This foundation is a way we can communicate the value of design.' For bursary details, visit www.klc.co.uk



Nightclubbing Collection



Zinc Textile, 1 Chelsea Wharf, 15 Lots Road, London SW10 OQJ +44 207 349 9680 info@zinctextile.com

www.zinctextile.com



WESTBURY GARDEN ROOMS

01245 326500 westburygardenrooms.com **Outside interests**

Clare Foster finds fresh gardening inspiration



POWER TOOL

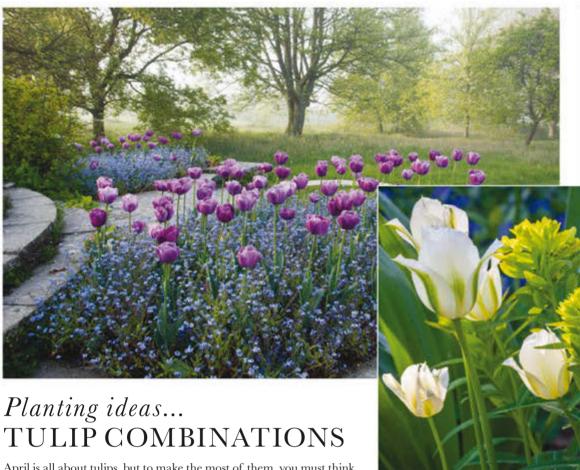
Most gardening tools are made from steel or iron, but some people believe that copper has special qualities that make it ideal for cultivating the soil. Non-magnetic, anti-microbial and slow to corrode, copper is also sharp, extremely hard wearing and known to deter slugs and snails. As beautiful as they are functional, these HAND TOOLS are part of a range made in Austria and have sharpened copper heads and smooth beech handles. The 'Castor' trowel and 'Vega' hand fork shown here cost £32 each, including UK delivery, from www.implementations.co.uk.

COMFREY is one of those wonder plants, high in nitrogen and potash, and an excellent fertiliser for tomatoes or beans. Sarah Raven offers both plants, which can be used to make a nutritious comfrey tea, and fertiliser pellets, to be applied directly around the base of a plant. A one-litre pack, making 75 litres of liquid feed, is f, 10.95 plus p&p, or five comfrey plug plants cost £8.95 plus p&p, from www.sarahraven.com.



With strong, simple lines, the 'OKEFORD BOWL' from Cranborne Stone is made from stone composite that can be finished in several different colours to match your local stone. Available with bespoke details such as drainage holes or a resin lining, the bowl can be used as a planter or a small water feature. The 'Okeford Bowl' comes in small (35cm diameter, £118), medium (45cm diameter, £180), and large (55cm diameter, f,243); all prices include delivery. 01258-472685; www.cranbornestone.co.uk >

news outside interests



April is all about tulips, but to make the most of them, you must think laterally and team them up with other plants that support and complement their starring role. One of the easiest and most effective ways to

show off your prize tulips is to underplant them with seed-sown forget-me-nots. The frothy pale blue of the annual forget-me-nots complements tulips of many different colours, but goes particularly well with white, pale pink or lavender purple, as shown above, with a Great Dixter combination of *Tulipa* 'Combat' and *Myosotis* 'Bluesylva'.

Another easy bedfellow for tulips is honesty. It's similar to forget-me-nots in that it's easy to grow from seed - although as it is biennial, it won't flower until the second year. The purple of Lunaria annua teams well with pinky-white Tulipa 'Shirley' or Tulipa 'Purple Flag', although the honesty grows taller and can swamp the tulips if you don't keep an eye on it. One of the most refreshing combinations is variegated white honesty with *Tulipa* 'Spring Green', made even more zingy with the addition of lime-green Euphorbia polychroma, one of the earliest to flower in early spring. Other euphorbias to try with tulips are the low-growing E. cyparissias, or the taller E. palustris, which makes a vibrant backdrop to tulips of all colours.

The wallflower is another good partner, with the advantage that you can choose from a good range of varieties to colour match your chosen tulips. You might choose a fiery combination like Tulipa 'Ballerina' and Erysimum 'Fire King', as Sarah Raven has done at Perch Hill (pictured right), or a more subtle pairing such as Tulipa 'Angélique' and Erysimum 'Bowles's Mauve'. And, of course, you don't have to limit it to a marriage of two. Have fun and throw in more varieties: how about tulips 'Queen of the Night' and 'West Point' (darkest purple and brightest yellow) with forget-me-nots and pale yellow *Erysimum* 'Primrose Monarch'?

A final note: don't just think about what might be flowering at the same time - consider foliage, too. Following the example of Fergus Garrett at Great Dixter, you could team tulips with lupins, which will flower later but complement the tulips with their fresh, green palmate leaves – and hide them when they are over. Buy tulip bulbs in autumn from www. peternyssen.com. Add perennials such as euphorbias to the garden now from www.crocus.co.uk. Sow honesty and forget-me-nots in early spring or autumn from www.chilternseeds.co.uk.

FROM TOP Tulipa 'Combat' and forget-me-nots at Great Dixter. Tulipa 'Spring Green'. Tulipa 'Ballerina' and Erysimum 'Fire King' at Perch Hill

THE GARDENER'S DIARY

NATIONAL GARDENING WEEK April 13-19

Events will take place across the country to celebrate National Gardening Week, from allotment tours to garden openings and special exhibitions. For what's on in your area, visit www.national gardeningweek.org.uk.

AURICULAS FOR ALL April 14

Auricula specialist Les Allen will give a talk and practical demonstration about auriculas. The day starts at 11am and costs £12.50, including coffee, at Ashwood Nurseries, Kingswinford, West Midlands. www. ashwoodnurseries.com

TULIP FESTIVAL April 23-May 5

Held at Pashlev Manor in East Sussex, the annual event showcases 25,000 tulips in the gardens of this Elizabethan manor house. The festival is open daily 11am-5pm and entry is £10. www.pashleymanor gardens.com ⊳





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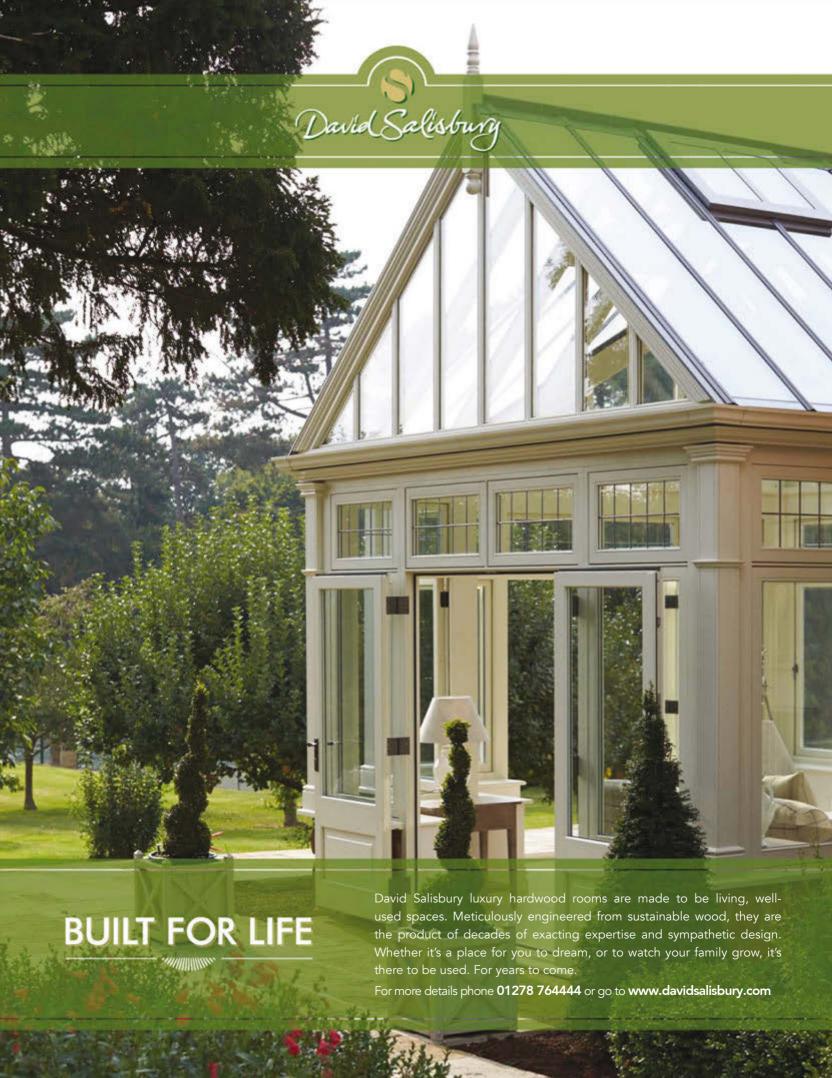


The GARDEN MUSEUM organises a series of exclusive garden visits throughout spring and summer. This year, visits include: a trip to Oxfordshire on April 16, with a rare chance to see the gardens of Beckley Park; a visit to Munstead Wood and nearby gardens on May 21; a tour of secret London gardens on June 9; and a tour of private designer gardens in Hampshire and West Sussex on June 11. For details, visit www.gardenmuseum.org.uk.

Marston & Langinger's range of WIRE-WORK FURNITURE includes these pretty pastel 'Bistro' chairs. Designed for use both indoors and out, these handmade chairs are galvanised to protect against corrosion and finished with three coats of eggshell paint in a wide range of bespoke colours. Measuring 98 x 40cm diameter, they cost £641 each from 194 Ebury Street, SW1. 020-7881 5700; www.marston-and-langinger.com







Out and about

Latest launches... glamorous events... hot buys... Carole Annett takes note



This charming new COTTON from Manuel Canovas, 'L'Envol' (multicolore), has a width of 147cm and costs £,79 a metre. 020-8874 6484; www.manuelcanovas.com

DESIGN LECTURE Event reminder



The style writer, interior designer and House & Garden's new contributing editor RITA KONIG will present an illustrated talk entitled 'Looking back and seeing the future - exploring how House & Garden's archive of vintage interiors can influence the design of today'. The event takes place at Design Centre Chelsea Harbour during London Design Week on Tuesday, March 10, 3-4pm, and is inspired by a new series of books on House & Garden's archives; the first, Fifties House (Conran Octopus, f,30), is out now. Tickets cost £10. To book, visit www.dcch.co.uk, call 020-7352 1900 or email enquiries@dcch.co.uk.



NEW **METAL**

Inspired by a damask from Zoffany's archive, this 'Fresco Secco' WALLPAPER is printed with translucent metallic inks to emulate the worn plaster of ancient frescoes. Shown here in bronze, it is available in five colourways and costs f,70 for a 10-metre roll. 0844-543 4600; www.zoffany.co.uk



This three-seater sofa from The French House in Parsons Green, SW6, can be made to measure. Seen here measuring 85 x 210 x 87cm, it costs £2,000 including upholstery and excluding fabric. Orders are turned around in five to six weeks. The company is also known for its restored and upholstered mid-nineteenth-century furniture. 020-7371 7573; www.thefrenchhouse.co.uk ⊳

news | out and about

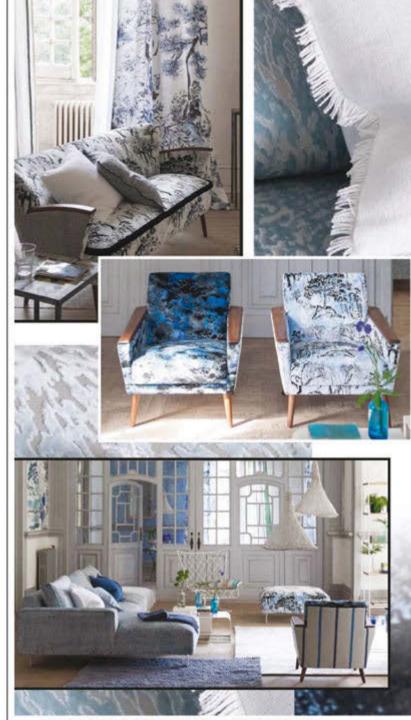


'Soori Highline' by Soo Chan is the latest designer collaboration from Poliform. The ARMCHAIR measures $68.5 \times 66 \times 80.5 \text{cm}$ and is available in three wood finishes, including spessart oak, as shown, which costs £2,430. The seat can be upholstered in fabric, leather or faux leather. 020-7368 7600; www.poliformuk.com



A geometric design in ceramic, the 'Diamond' BASIN from C P Hart reflects an emerging trend for texture and pattern in the bathroom. It measures 91.5 x 30cm base diameter and costs from £2,272.50. It is shown here with a 'Goccia' free-standing mixer, by Gessi, which costs from £661. 0845-600 1950; www.cphart.co.ut >





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Designers Guild has launched a PAINT COLLECTION

with 154 colours to complement its fabrics and home furnishings. Paint is available in four finishes – matt emulsion, waterbased eggshell, oil-based eggshell and floor paint – and costs from £,39 for a 2.5-litre tin of matt emulsion. 020-7893 7400; www.designers guild.com

EXCLUSIVE READER LUNCH

Event reminder



Join House & Garden and Geraldine Howard, the founder of AROMATHERAPY ASSOCIATES, at Kaspar's Seafood Bar and Grill in London hotel The Savoy for a short talk on the company's products and their therapeutic effects. Taking place on Wednesday, March 25, 12.30-3pm, this reader event includes a Champagne reception, followed by a three-course lunch with wine and coffee. Tickets cost £,70 each and include a gift bag, plus entry into a prize draw for two people to enjoy a spa experience at Beauty & Fitness at The Savoy. To book, email savoy@fairmont.com or call 020-7420 2111, quote the reference 'House & Garden' and give your name, contact number and required number of tickets. You will then be contacted by return email. ⊳







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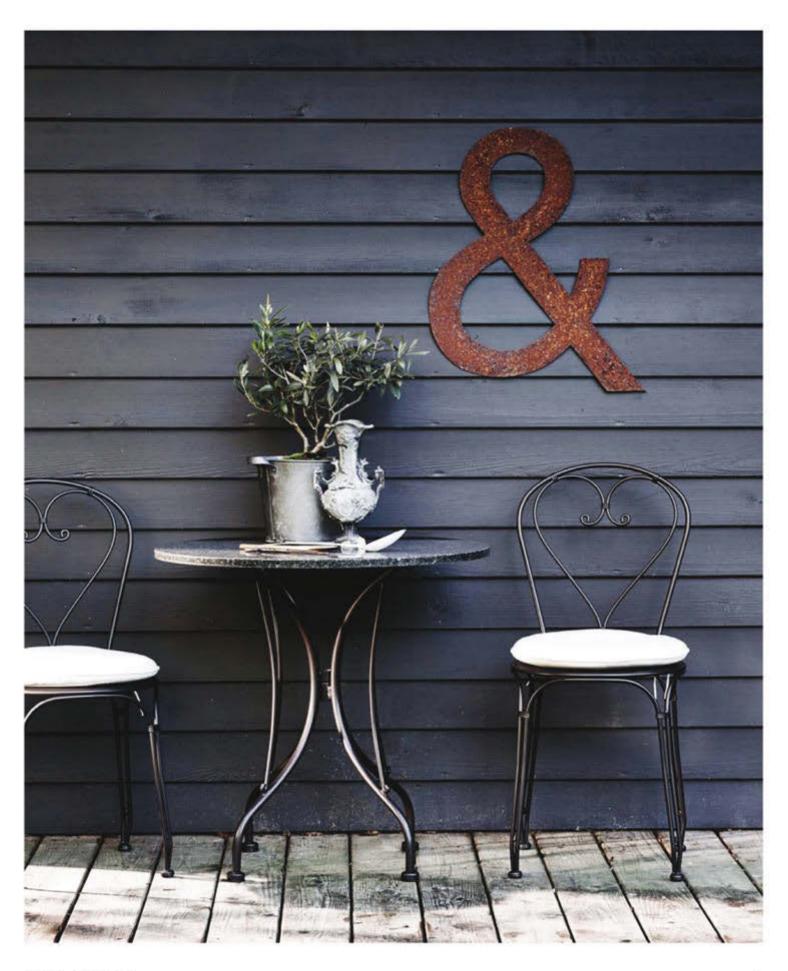
news out and about



garden and deer park. The event will start with drinks and the hotel's signature 'piggy bits' canapés while Phil James, managing director of Marston & Langinger, gives a short, informal talk on the company's heritage. Guests will then enjoy a three-course lunch, made using home-grown and locally sourced produce, with wine and coffee, in The Pig's Marston & Langinger-designed conservatory. Tickets cost £55 each and include food, drinks and a gift bag. To book, send a cheque payable to The Pig, with your name, address, email and telephone number, to: Julia Page, The Pig event, House & Garden, Vogue House, London W1S 1JU. ▷

in the Mendip Hills with its own orchards, kitchen





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SPOT ON

Little Greene's reproduction of an 1830s French wallpaper, 'Paint Spot', was originally printed in a bold combination of yellow and pink. It is seen here in custard/apple and it is also available in snowball, strawberry/ cream and vanilla/taupe colourways. It costs £57 for a 10-metre roll. 020-7935 8844: www.littlegreene.com





This bespoke sink by Artisans of Devizes has been carved from a single block of limestone in the company's Wiltshire workshop. The team can create anything from floor patterns to carved spiral staircases, all in stone. Roche marron limestone costs from £94.80 for a square metre and the sink shown here measures 25 x 200 x 65cm and costs from £2,500. 01380-720007; www. artisansofdevizes.com ⊳

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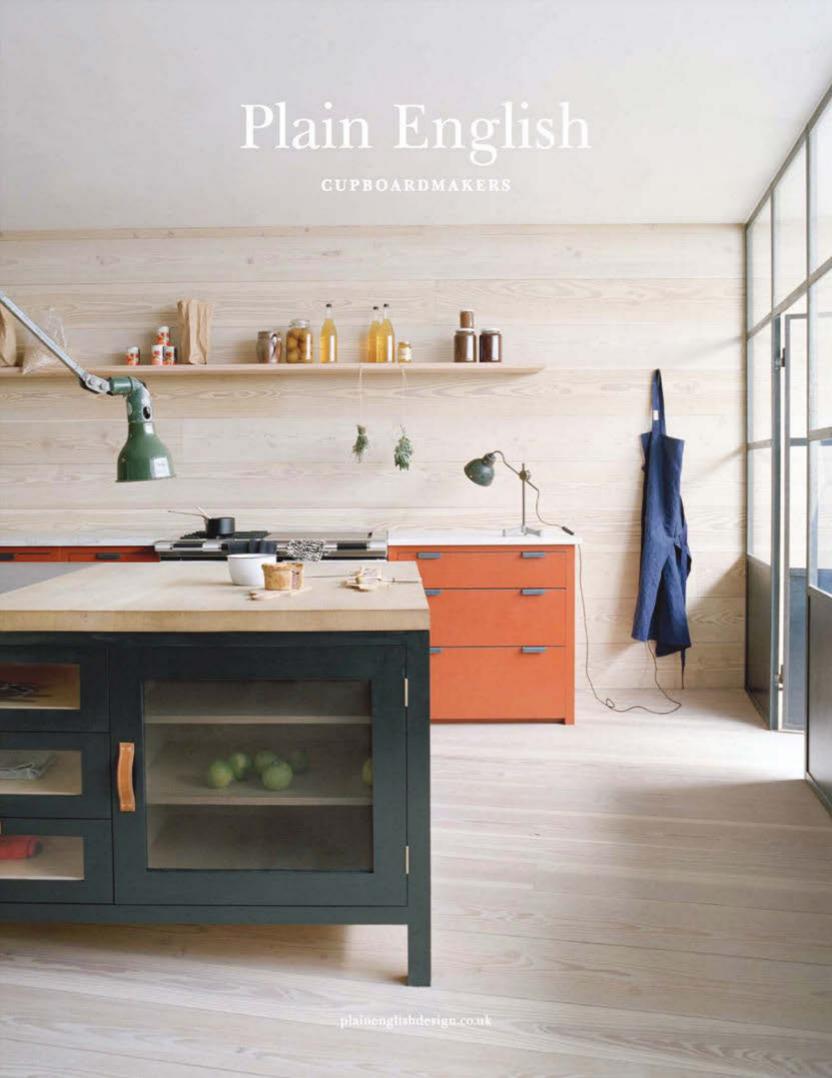
Summit has introduced its first non-teak collection in 25 years: the Modern series by Brian Kane. It includes this 'MC103' lounge chair, 76 x 74 x 69cm, £1,962, and 'MC104' footrest, 43 x 58cm square, £1,464. 020-7795 3311; www.summitfurniture.com



This free-standing orangery by DAVID

SALISBURY was designed to complement the architecture of the main house and of the walled garden that surrounds it. A similar design costs from £45,000. 01278-764444;

www.davidsalisbury.com



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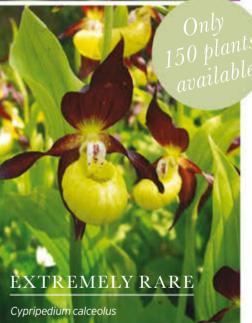
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avvy gardeners with an eye for spotting the trends are embracing orchids this season and, given their aesthetic appeal and hardy disposition, it is easy to see why. Perfectly suited to both a modern or traditional planting scheme, orchids now come in many striking varieties from which Hayloft Plants has selected the most sought-after new additions. Cypripedium, or lady's slipper orchids, are the most spectacular and the most desirable variety available in the English market. They reach a height of 30cm from April to May and can be planted in pots to admire up close. When planted in borders and grass areas, these extraordinary flowers will naturalise in informal drifts, strewn with pretty flowers, and as they grow in size, they grow in value. Orchids are perfect, low-maintenance plants that promise to delight both enthusiastic amateur gardeners and professionals alike, year after year \square









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At The London Original Print Fair, Helen Rosslyn is pictured next to a Gillian Ayres print on the Alan Cristea Gallery stand





Artistic imprint

From organising The London Original Print Fair and presenting art-history documentaries to managing the restoration of Rosslyn Castle's historic chapel, **Helen Rosslyn** talks to **Hatta Byng** about her many interests

PHOTOGRAPHS HELEN CATHCART

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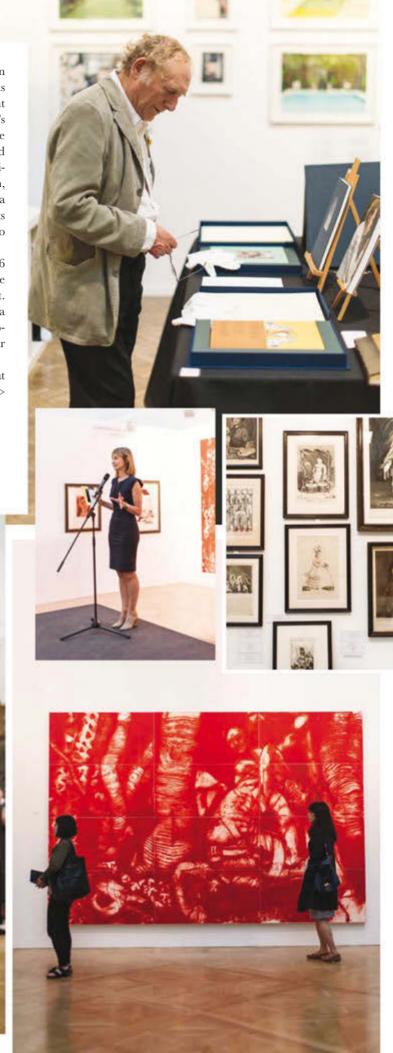
104 HOUSEANDGARDEN.CO.UK APRIL :

his year is the thirtieth anniversary of The London Original Print Fair and Helen Rosslyn has been its director for 28 years. She was working in the print department at Christie's when Gordon Cooke, the fair's founder and now chairman, approached her. Since then, as well as running the fair, she has raised four children, written and presented several BBC art-history documentaries and curated an exhibition at the National Gallery of Scotland. As the Countess of Rosslyn, wife of the 7th Earl, she has also played an instrumental role in a £10-million project to conserve Rosslyn Chapel, brought to fame by its appearance in Dan Brown's best-selling novel *The Da Vinci Code*. But to meet, she is remarkably understated.

When Helen first became the fair's director, there were just 16 exhibitors. 'It had the feeling of a street market,' she says. Now there are 50 exhibitors and it fills the main galleries at the Royal Academy of Art. Bigger in scale and with a much larger footfall, it nevertheless retains a friendly, community feeling. 'The print fraternity is very mutually supportive,' Helen explains. 'That is why I've stayed involved with the fair for so long. They are all trying to get the same message across.'

'People are nervous about prints: this fair is designed to show that prints are original works of art,' she says. 'One of the great strengths of \triangleright

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP Artist and printmaker Norman Ackroyd browses the stands at The London Original Print Fair. Antique prints on show at the Fair. Hughie O'Donoghue's *Trone's Wood*, at Marlborough Gallery's stand. Helen with the Fair's founder and chairman Gordon Cooke in the RA's main gallery reception. Helen gives an introductory talk at the Fair's reception







CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE
Helen sits in her London flat;
above her are prints by Howard
Hodgkin and Gillian Ayres.
LOPF Now Award winner
Henry Coleman speaks with
Helen at the RA Schools.
Caroline Abbotts, another
RA student who is an LOPF
Now Award winner, talks to
RA lecturer Mark Hampson

the fair is that so many of the galleries that exhibit are involved in the print-making – Bob Saich of Advanced Graphics and Bernard Pratt of Pratt Contemporary Art, for instance – so they have a wealth of knowledge of the processes themselves.' Helen also points out that 'many of our most well-known artists are drawn to printing as a medium, as they are fascinated by the technical side'. Artists represented at the fair range from Rembrandt to Grayson Perry.

She cites her role these days as one of 'moving the fair forward'. Last year, for instance, saw the launch of the LOPF NOW Award, given to a Royal Academy student printmaker. Sponsored by Towry, the award aims to encourage a new generation of students to explore contemporary printmaking. This year, to celebrate the fair's thirtieth anniversary, a group of 30 prints from the Royal Collection will be shown.

Helen herself has bought something at every fair she has been director of – including works as varied as a large Howard Hodgkin that hangs in her London flat, a 'little' Rembrandt and a portfolio of prints by one of her own assistants, Annie Attridge. 'I'm attracted by processes and techniques; I've bought unfinished proofs, too,' she says.

Some of Helen's acquisitions hang in Rosslyn Castle, where she and her family spend holidays. The dramatically sited castle, perched on a rock above the River Esk near Edinburgh, has been in her husband's family, the St Clairs, since the early fourteenth century, but until recently was little visited by them. Her husband took her there before they were married, as students, and told her of his desire to make it habitable. At that point, it had no windows, the roof had fallen in and pigeons were its only occupants.

Helen describes the many 'working holidays' they have had staying ⊳





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After the publication of The Da Vinci Code in 2003, the chapel was swamped by visitors and was insufficiently equipped to deal with them, causing huge wear and tear. In 1995, a report had already confirmed that the chapel was in need of some major work, but it was its new-found fame, together with a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund in 1997, that kick-started a £10-million conservation project.

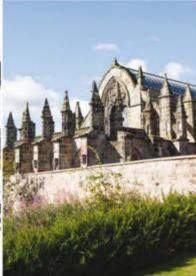
Helen, as chairman of the chapel's management committee, describes her role as 'the family mouthpiece and working arm'. All four of their children were christened in the chapel, so as well as the historic motivation, there was a personal one. Much of Helen's time was spent fundraising, which included a tour of the States. She talks of the dilemmas and challenges they faced – such as how to light a historic building - but also of the pleasure gleaned from watching the craftsmen in action and their passion for their craft.

As well as conserving the chapel, they had to build a new visitors' centre. 'Deciding on what route to take was very scary,' remembers Helen. 'We wanted it to be sympathetic and yet of its time.' The result, with its greenoak frame and pitched copper roof, is undoubtedly both of these things.

Before The Da Vinci Code, there had been a single custodian who Helen describes as 'hiding behind bookcases' when there were too many ⊳

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT Helen and expert mason Nicolas Boyes examine the north aisle of Rosslyn Chapel. The chapel's gothic exterior. A view of the chapel's east front. In the new visitors' centre, Helen, Nicolas and the director, Ian Gardner, discuss future plans. At 9am, the chapel, popularised by its inclusion in Dan Brown's novel The Da Vinci Code and the subsequent film, is already full of visitors







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CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE At the Royal Drawing School, Rosie Wellesley shows Helen illustrations for William the Cat and the Rescue of Rosslyn Chapel (also top right). The intricately carved Apprentice Pillar in Rosslyn Chapel; at its base are eight dragons that inspired Rosie's illustrations. William, the chapel cat and the book's main character, sits on a pew







visitors. 'He liked interested people but not coachloads.' Things needed to change, but the Rosslyns were adamant that the feeling should remain friendly. 'Our challenge was to grow the operation without making it seem impersonal, which is why I wanted to get so closely involved,' says Helen. They have been helped by good directors - first Colin Glynne-Percy and now Ian Gardner - who have run the chapel on a day-to-day basis.

The newly restored chapel was unveiled in 2012 in a ceremony attended by the Duchess of Cornwall – or the Duchess of Rothesay, as she is known in Scotland – for which Helen commissioned a piece of choral music by Howard Goodall as a present for her husband.

Helen's current focus is a children's book, William the Cat and the Rescue of Rosslyn Chapel, which tells the story of the conservation project seen through the eyes of a local cat that comes every day to spend time in the chapel – you are sure to see him if you visit. While on her fund-raising trip to the States, Helen met Renee Harbers, who was keen to donate to the project, though her family's foundation gives money only to educational projects. Together they dreamt up the idea of the book; Helen wrote the text on the plane home. Through the Royal Drawing School, she commissioned Rosie Wellesley to illustrate the book. Rosie spent several days in the chapel sketching the carvings, getting to know William and soaking up the atmosphere of the chapel. The book very much captures the lure of the place. Vitally, due to the generosity of the Harbers Family Foundation, all profits go directly to the chapel.

The Rosslyns' commitment to the chapel and the castle is ongoing. For now, they both need to be based in the South for their work - since last September, Lord Rosslyn has been the Master of the Household to the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall, after a 34-year career as a police officer, and Helen, as well as being director of this year's print fair, is in talks with the BBC about further documentaries. But the idea of living in the castle more permanently one day is something they often discuss \(\square\$

The London Original Print Fair (020-7439 2000; www.londonprintfair.com) is at the Royal Academy of Arts from April 23-26 | William the Cat and the Rescue of Rosslyn Chapel', £7.95, is available from www.rosslynchapel.com











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CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT A selection of van Cronenburg



SPECIALIST PROFILE

Peter van Cronenburg

Emily Tobin talks to Peter van Cronenburg, a Belgian designermaker whose highly detailed architectural elements - ranging from door handles and latches to bells and knobs - are distinguished by their ornate design and traditional craftsmanship

PHOTOGRAPHS SEBASTIAN BÖTTCHER

'What is fascinating about handles is that they are an architectural element that concentrate so much on something so small. They can fit into the palm of your hand and yet they speak of the history of the building, the owner's taste and the time they were made.' Peter van Cronenburg and his wife Régine Yvergneaux

are extolling the virtues of hardware at their workshop in Ghent. The van Cronenburg collection consists of thousands of original models alongside a line of reproduction pieces, from sixteenth-century Venetian door handles to Shaker knobs and Bauhaus latches, but, according to Peter, they all have one thing in common: 'They have been designed and created according to a purity of shape, function and proportion.'

Peter started his career in the early Eighties as a cabinetmaker; he specialised in panelling, libraries and interior doors. Hinges and handles formed the basis for much of his work, but he could rarely find the hardware he wanted – the market was saturated with pieces that 'were too

nineteenth century, with a mechanical finish and artificial patina'. So he started collecting historical items in order to reproduce them.

A second building, just behind the workshop, now houses this collection. Row upon row of shelves are packed with handles, knobs, draw



pulls, escutcheons, latches, bells, door plates and numbers - an invaluable reference library for Peter and his team, who use these models to inform their own designs.

In 2008, Peter and Régine quit their day

jobs - Régine had been an antique dealer after working in banking - and turned this sideline into a fully fledged business. In the years since, the collection's grown at a rate they couldn't have imagined. Their list of clients (including the owner of the London flat featured in 'High expectations' in this issue) is as gilded as their designs and a well-kept secret, although

Peter does concede Ilse Crawford is a longterm collaborator. 'We've shown our handles to the world,' he says proudly. 'They have travelled the globe on yachts, been installed up Swiss mountains and overlook the Hollywood sign.' The demand for van Cronenburg's ⊳

'Our handles have travelled the globe on yachts and been installed up Swiss mountains'

people | specialist









products shows little sign of abating. In March last year, the company opened a new showroom in New York and the team spends a lot of time on the Eurostar flitting back and forth between London and Belgium.

Back in the Ghent workspace, headed by veteran craftsman Alex Lambert, a cacophony of grumbling and grinding machines is interjected by the occasional high-pitched shriek as brass is polished, while the constant thud of hammering signifies detail being chased back into metal.

Until recently, casting took place on site, but noise complaints from neighbours and workers suffering from constant colds due to the damp forced Peter and Régine to relocate this part of the process to a foundry in France. Pieces arrive in Ghent with a hard-surface crust - this is removed, the seams left from casting are ground down and the piece is then filed, or if it is round, hand turned. Depending on its style and shape, it is then brushed and polished before the detail is chased back in; the piece is then plated, or patina is applied by hand. This element is key, says Peter: 'Turn a rich, gold-finished piece to gunmetal and it

becomes country; use chrome for a Renaissance handle and it instantly becomes modern.'

Chasing can take up to three hours per handle. Serge Sushnikov, who is responsible for this part of the process, uses an arsenal of tools, including tracers, embossers and rifloirs,

to make between 5,000 and 10,000 knocks a day; with each knock, delicate indents gradually form - and out of the 'spongy' brass springs a berry, a leaf, the mane of a lion, or a sharp line.

Peter and his team scour flea markets and eBay for old tools made from strong steel. 'Today's alloys aren't strong enough,' he explains, 'so we use old equipment and cut it to make our own tooling.' For every new design, a new instrument is made and every worker has their own set with wooden handles specifically shaped to fit their palm.

It is the handmade element that makes this hardware so special, and imperative that machines don't dictate the design. 'At van Cronenburg,

we are striving for the perfect imperfection,' says Peter. With over 20,000 designs under his belt and a rapidly expanding empire, he has clearly found the recipe for success □

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT Régine works in Peter's office. The final polishing of a lion door knocker. Serge works on a Louis XVI floral knob. Pearls are punched into a door handle. Régine gives instructions in the workshop

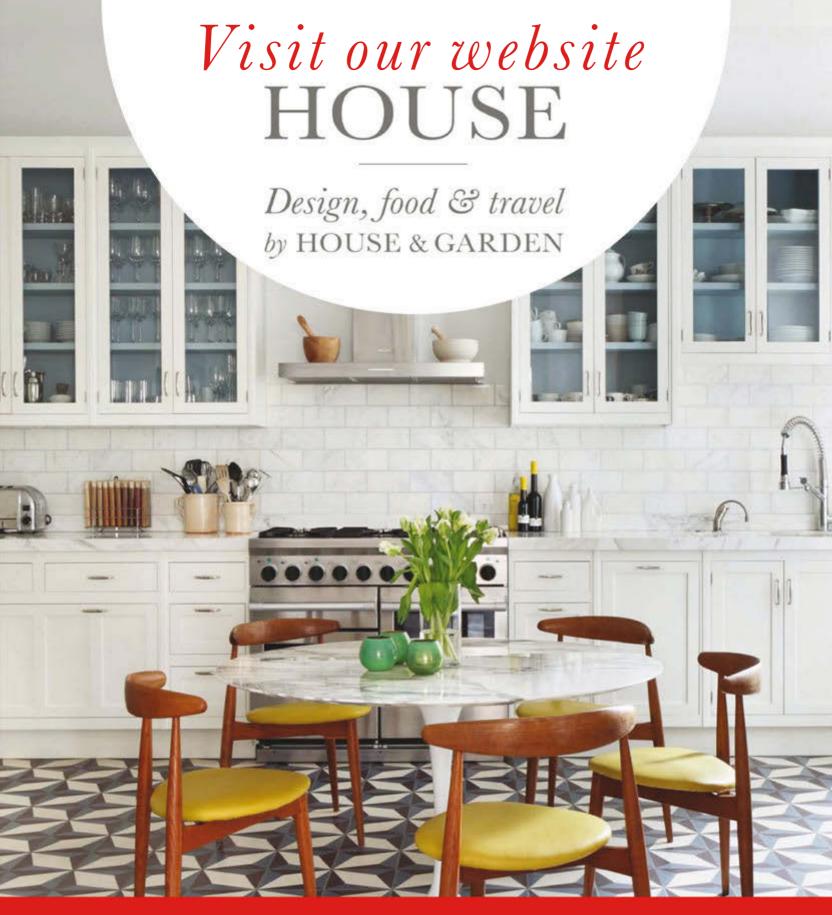
Prices from £200; www.petervancronenburg.com





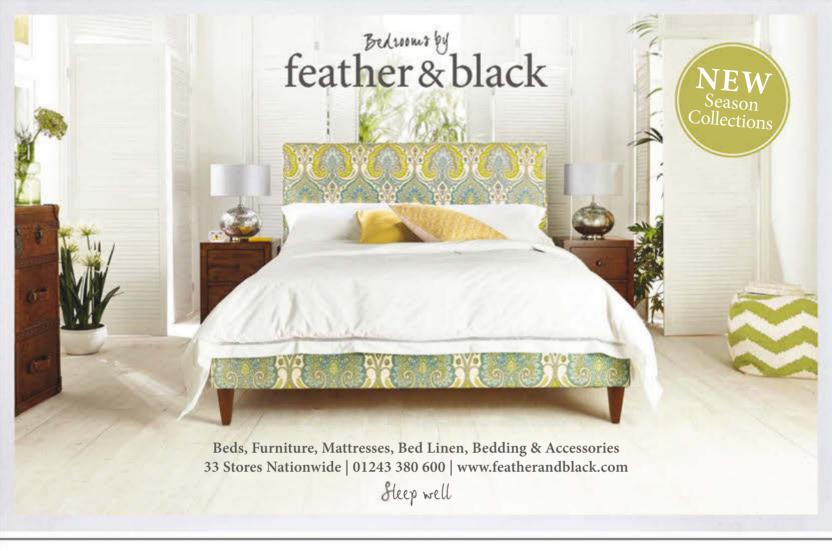
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FRAMES AND FORTUNES

Celina Fox considers the legacy of the nineteenth-century Parisian art dealer who championed the Impressionists, and reviews other current exhibitions

omantic trajectories from rags to riches and obscurity to fame are cherished by the avant-garde, for they imply that individual genius and creative struggle can conquer all obstacles to achieve worldly success. Yet lurking behind the scenes, there is inevitably a fixer who spots the potential, seizes the initiative and propels both artist and work into the marketplace. For the Impressionists, that crucial role was played by the Parisian art dealer Paul Durand-Ruel (1831-1922), whose long career is examined in the National Gallery's latest show.

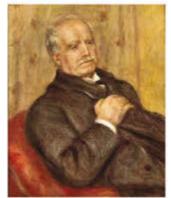
The Durand-Ruel family business, based in the rue Saint-Jacques in Paris, sold stationery, art supplies and pictures on the side. Paul learnt the trade from his father, handling works by Delacroix and the Barbizon school. But while taking refuge in London from the Franco-Prussian war in 1871, he was introduced by the artist Daubigny to his fellow émigrés, Monet and Pissarro. Attracted by their fresh approach to painting the city, he included

examples of their work in the mixed shows he staged in rented premises on New Bond Street. After his return to Paris, he bought paintings by Degas, Renoir, Sisley and, on a visit to Manet's studio in 1872, most of its contents -23 works in all. Despite scant sales, he became the Impressionists' loyal advocate and financial supporter.

With his relish for speculation and exposure to risk, Durand-Ruel had boarded a business roller coaster. In the face of vitriolic press campaigns that denounced the Impressionists as lunatics and their dealer as even crazier, he was forced to sell his entire stock of Barbizon paintings and narrowly avoided bankruptcy. Financial backing from the Banque de l'Union Générale was shortlived, for the bank collapsed in 1882. Exhibitions the

following year in Boston, Berlin and London resulted in the sale of one picture by Degas. Only in 1886, when he organised a show in New York of 300 paintings to which crowds flocked, did his fortunes begin to rise.





LEFT Claude Monet, Poplars in the Sun, 1891. BELOW LEFT Pierre-August Renoir, Paul Durand-Ruel, 1910

Durand-Ruel's entrepreneurial spirit and belief in the art sustained him through the lean years. He protected his artists' autonomy, freeing them from the taste of particular clients and the fear of making ends meet by paying them a monthly sum against their work. In exchange, he wanted exclusive access and first pick. He would buy entire collections to build up stock, staging one-man shows - and even one-theme shows, in the case of Monet's paintings of poplars. Though based in the rue Laffitte, in the early 1870s, he had branches in London and Brussels, while his New York gallery, open from 1888 to 1949, became a magnet for rich American collectors. His Paris apartment on one of Haussmann's new boulevards, the rue de Rome, was always open to artists and clients. It showcased his personal collection - the door panels were painted with flowers by Monet and Renoir's

Luncheon of the Boating Party hung in the dining room.

The climax of the National Gallery show focuses on what is still the largest exhibition of Impressionist paintings held in Britain. In 1905, Durand-Ruel presented 315 works at the Grafton Galleries in Mayfair, two-thirds of which came from his own collection. Arranged as a series of monographic displays, the exhibition included 55 Monets. Although it was not a commercial success - only 13 works sold, almost all to foreign buyers - it attracted more than 11,000 visitors, including British royalty. It constituted the culmination of over 30 years' commitment to artistic innovation. In 1920, at the age of 89, he reflected that had he passed away at 60, he would have died bankrupt, surrounded by a wealth of underrated treasures. Monet said

simply that without him, the Impressionists would not have survived. 'Inventing Impressionism: Paul Durand-Ruel and the Modern Art Market' is at the National Gallery from March 4 to May 31, sponsored by Credit Suisse ▷





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Opposing views

Exhibitions marking the bicentenary of the defeat of Napoleon continue with two London openings. The National Portrait Gallery examines the life of the Duke of Wellington in a show that covers both his military and his political careers

- tracing his rise to national hero and subsequent loss of public esteem. The images of the great man range from Goya's famous portrait to a daguerreotype taken on his seventy-fifth birthday, in 1844, by Antoine Claudet. The exhibition includes pieces that commemorate Wellington's military victories and satirical prints produced in the 1820s and the 1830s attacking his oppressively conservative style of government.



Meanwhile, the British Museum has combed its collection to find images of Napoleon Bonaparte, as seen from both sides of the Channel. Although prints were published in Britain representing him as a handsome young general, he soon became the target of James Gillray's merciless wit and was caricatured as a bloodthirsty warmonger, who was bent on world domination. With commendable even-handedness, the exhibition also includes prints produced in Paris, which attack John Bull, King George III and, by 1815, the Congress of Vienna and returning French émigrés. 'Wellington: Triumphs, Politics and Passions' is at the National Portrait Gallery, St Martin's Place, WC2 (020-7306 0055; www.npg.org.uk) from March 12 to June 7, sponsored by Herbert Smith Freehills; admission, free. Bonaparte and the British: Prints and Propaganda in the Age of Napoleon' is at the British Museum, Great Russell Street, WC1 (020-77323 8299; www.britishmuseum.org) until August 16; admission, free \triangleright



TOP James Gillray, The King of Brobdingnag and Gulliver, 1803. ABOVE James Gillray, The Plumb-pudding in Danger: - or - State Epicures take un Petit Souper, 1805

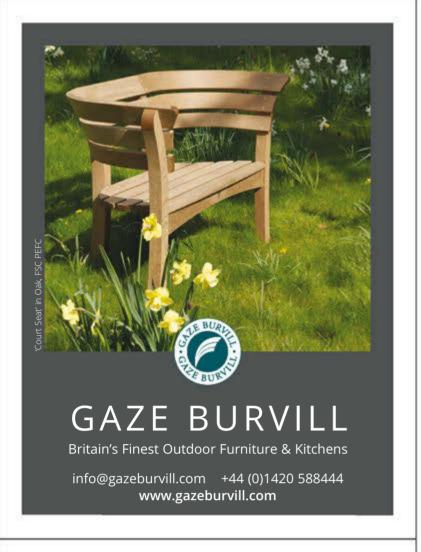
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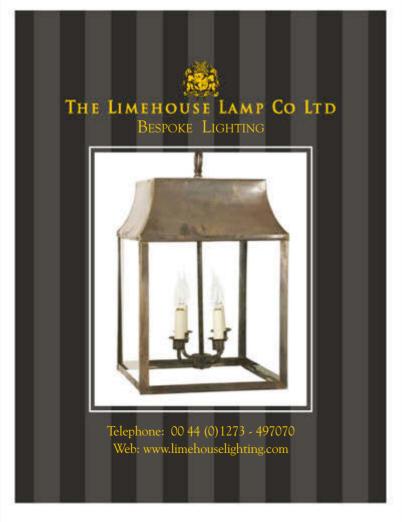
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SPACE EXPLORATION

Although Richard Diebenkorn (1922–93) was identified in the early Fifties with the Abstract Expressionists based in New York, for most of his career he followed his own distinctive course and lived in California, where he had grown up. West Coast light and landscape give many of his paintings an exhilarating openness – especially the Ocean Park series, which he produced from 1967 to 1988, named after a community in Santa Monica where he had a studio. A draughtsman and painter of sustained authority despite changes in style, he drew inspiration for his figurative work from Matisse, whose pre-1914 paintings were a revelation to him. The Royal Academy's retrospective is timely, given that his last major show in Britain took place in 1991 at the Whitechapel Gallery. 'Richard Diebenkorn' is at the Royal Academy of Arts, Burlington House, Piccadilly, W1 (020-7300 8000; www.royalacademy.org.uk) from March 14 to June 7; admission, £11.50

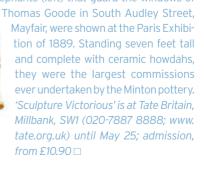


Richard Diebenkorn, Cityscape I, 1963

Supporting casts

In the wake of the chilly neoclassical marbles produced by Canova, Flaxman and Thorvaldsen, there was bound to be a reaction and Tate Britain's exhibition of Victorian sculpture reveals its full extent. The building of the new Houses of Parliament encouraged the production of works in a loosely gothic style. The Great Exhibition of 1851 promoted new techniques, notably electrotyping and electroplating for silverwork and jewellery. Active both as a sculptor and goldsmith, Alfred Gilbert experimented with new metals, creating sinuous forms inspired principally by Renaissance sculpture. Virtuoso works in historicist styles were

> also produced by the country's leading manufacturers, some inspired by the British Empire. The magnificent pair of majolica elephants (left) that guard the windows of





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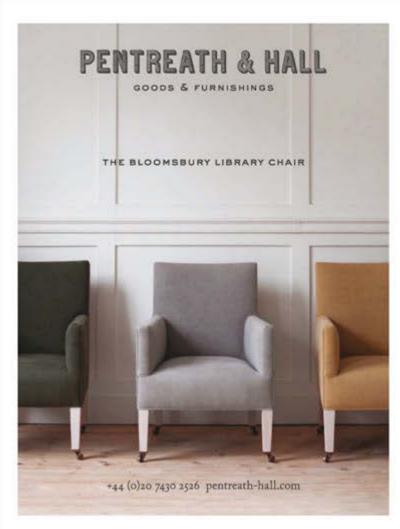












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FROM HARE TO MODERNITY

Emily Tobin discovers contemporary artists who are reviving the tradition of ceramic animal figurines



LAURA CARLIN has a ceramics studio tucked away in a corner of south-east London, off a busy road, through a cobbled courtyard and up a flight of stairs; it is in this bright, lofty space that she makes her ceramic sculptures. These quirky figures have the same naivety of form as her illustrations; in fact, it is as though her pencil drawings have leapt from the page and have become three dimensional.

As the recession trickled through the creative industries in 2010 and illustration work dried up, Laura dipped into her overdraft and started an evening class in ceramics. She organised a sale at a friend's house and, despite her initial anxiety that no one would turn up, everything sold. Now, ceramics are integral to her livelihood.

Laura's sculptures include a menagerie of earthenware leopards, lions, tigers, as well as sturdy human figures bursting with character despite having only tiny scribbly marks for features. Solemn men and women sit with shoulders slumped and eyes downturned; a scarlet-lipped siren rests on a rock and soldiers ride on horseback into war.

Just as with her works on paper, these pieces are about telling a story. 'They might be loosely based on a book I've read or characters from real life,' she explains. Either way, narrative is central. Laura is currently working towards a London show at the House of Illustration gallery in September, exploring 'how a story goes from paper to ceramics'. Prices start at £220; www.thenewcraftsmen.com



LAURA CARLIN ABOVE 'Tiger', 9 x 22 x 4.5cm. BOTTOM LEFT 'Lion', 9 x 22 x 4.5cm



GEORGINA WARNE ABOVE 'Hare at Play', 54cm high. BELOW 'Owl', 41cm high



artist working in this traditional medium. Her working environment is a more rural affair - a timber-frame studio in her garden. 'It looks out over the parish allotments and doubles as a hide to watch wildlife from,' she says. 'I have my printing press and kiln in there; it is packed full of my prints and mixed-media work, as well as ceramic test pieces. And there are my collections of old nests and skulls.' Georgina's animals and birds are 'a celebration of the natural world'; she produces a diverse collection of creatures from hares and hippos to tigers, all handmade in stoneware or porcelain and hand painted. Sprigs of ferns and flowers creep up horses' legs, across dogs' backs and on birds' beaks, with an emphasis on adornment that draws back to Byzantine art. Georgina cites nature writers Richard Mabey, Robert Macfarlane and the late Roger Deakin as inspirations, alongside a long history of ceramics - from Spanish majolica pottery, to Staffordshire figures, Folk Art and Indian miniatures. Prices start at £500; www.jonathancooper.co.uk

ON OUR RADAR: OTHER NAMES TO KNOW

David Cleverly's work includes both historical and mythological creatures (www.david-cleverlyceramics.co.uk). He is heavily influenced by the English tradition of pottery and takes inspiration from Staffordshire makers, such as Walton, Whieldon and Mayer & Sherratt. Shirley Fintz (www.shirleyfintz.com) is a South African artist who creates whimsical animals decorated with delft, floral and traditional *shweshwe* motifs. James Cornwallis is based in France and makes wonderfully weird people and animals; smoking chimpanzees, dripping hot rabbits and beady-eyed crocodiles populate his work (www. jamescornwallisceramics.com). Pictured Cheeky Monkey, 45 x 25 x 17cm □



WORDS AND PICTURES

Edited by Catriona Grav

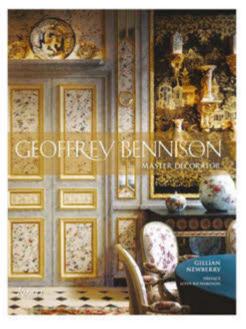


ABOVE Geoffrey Bennison in his shop on Upper Street, Islington, in 1973. RIGHT An impromptu dining area in Bennison's top-floor apartment in Soho's Golden Square



English design in the Victoria

and Albert Museum



GEOFFREY BENNISON: MASTER DECORATOR Gillian Newberry (Rizzoli, £35)

Wearing a floppy wig and always good for a gossip and quip, Geoffrey Bennison, who died in 1984, was funny, artistic, recklessly gay - often in drag and slap - and a supreme decorator. John Richardson, a long-time friend, perfectly captures the tone of both the man and his work in the preface to this fine record, while Gillian Newberry. who was employed by Bennison - and is a director of Bennison Fabrics - expands on that memoir and describes the 14 commissions illustrated. Bennison traded in antiques from the late Fifties, ceaselessly finding stock of such individuality that, when he started decorating alongside dealing, his unique 'eye' attracted a rich and discriminating clientele. Terence Stamp, George Weidenfeld and various Rothschilds were among that gilded set, but Bennison was never fazed by fame or grandeur. He decorated as he saw fit, exactly mixing colours, intermingling fabulous old textiles with recreated archive patterns, instigating exquisite finishes and dramatically playing with scale. His comfortable and sensuously lit schemes often had a moody, muscular quality, but they were romantic, too - and daringly quirky. He would place something mad on top of something magnificent - and, miraculously, get away with it. **Leonie Highton**



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TEXT LIZ ELLIOT SIMON BROWN

HIGH expectations



this London flat has created a spacious and airy home with interiors to match the stunning views















he fact that the owner of this flat knows the telephone number of his removal man off by heart will come as no surprise to his friends. 'Well, every seven or so years I get an itch to do something different and so I move on.' That he does so is fortuitous to those who follow on behind him, for they will enjoy an interior that not only has been perfectly executed but also bears witness to his fastidious eye and a meticulous attention to detail.

This apartment in an 1860s terrace, with uninterrupted views over Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens across its own communal gardens, had been untouched since the Sixties when it was first converted. The top floors of four houses had been demolished and replaced by a penthouse that stretches across the buildings; it had been decorated and lived in by one owner who had bought it 40 years previously.

Although it was very dated, with none of the original Victorian details remaining, the current owner sensibly lived in the property for some time, only slightly changing bathrooms - re-enamelling baths white that had originally been pink, for example – but made no structural changes.

Then he managed to buy the roof space above, extending the volume of the flat, and with ceilings a potential four-and-a-half metres high, he decided on a very different layout in which to live. The flat he bought had a small hall, a good-size sitting room overlooking the park, a rather mean dining room where the kitchen table now stands and a kitchen looking north. Three bedrooms, two bathrooms and a dressing room completed the layout, with all rooms opening on to a terrace.

CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE LEFT Chairs from Giorgetti and a table from Soane create a stylish dining area. Painted reclaimed-wood chairs by Piet Hein Eek stand against the saffron yellow walls, copied by paint-effects specialist Mathew Bray from a favourite pair of trousers belonging to the flat's owner. The colour of the corridor walls was inspired by a faded T-shirt









'I was fed up moving from room to room and wanted a more relaxed way of living,' he says, starting by knocking the dining room, kitchen and drawing room into one big room, as he imagined it to be 'a barn in the sky'. As he says, the difficulty in open-plan living areas is to design a kitchen that allows the cooking and washing up to be done away from the rest of the space. He did this by creating an L-shape kitchen, with the ovens and sinks hidden behind a wall of fridges, wine coolers and storage, opening on to a large island facing the dining area.

The hall became part of an expansive sitting room and library area, and the three smallish bedrooms and bathrooms were converted into two much larger rooms with ensuite bathrooms. He also created a small but practical study that's high enough to allow for the storage of many box files.

A series of large skylights were introduced in the main room and corridor. In taking out the ceiling, he decided that the height of the doors and the entrance to the corridor should be raised, converting what had once been a dark, rather pinched entrance to the bedrooms into a wonderfully light and airy space filled with books. Somewhat quixotically, he asked his specialist painter Mathew Bray to copy the colour of a friend's faded T-shirt when painting the corridor, similarly using a pair of saffron trousers as the inspiration for the walls of the living area.

The floor, which you notice as soon as you enter, was 'extraordinarily expensive and probably a foolish move', he admits with a laugh before explaining, 'Mathew found these old pine boards in a warehouse in Manchester. Their surface was finished in ridges that caught the light at different stages of the day. These were put through several stages of staining and then each individual board was curved at the edges, the style being that of an old English country house. It was a bit bonkers in a modern flat. But it gives me joy as soon as I enter.'

Both bedrooms are quietly yet luxuriously furnished. The main bedroom is curtained with unlined aquamarine silk from Claremont, with an inner curtain of linen. When the sun shines, I draw the curtains, which throws a luminous light everywhere.' The main bathroom is elegant in its simplicity. The walls are covered with tadelakt – a decorative lime-based plaster originally from Morocco - and the shower, deep enough to have no door, has a firm threshold of marble outlining the base. However, it is the bath, which stretches along the bottom of the window, that is particularly covetable – just the spot, one imagines, for a wallow in warm soapsuds while overlooking Hyde Park in all its seasons.

The owner has bought pieces from Robert Kime over the years and following the advice of Robert, who told him 20 years ago that if everything in a room is perfectly in period the result is stultifying - 'you may as well live in a museum' – he's selected things that entirely pleased him for their execution and design excellence. The library area, packed from floor to ceiling with books accessible from a moving ladder, is lit by beautifully elegant suspended reading lights from Christopher Howe; these are augmented by several clipped-on lights, which he had the ever-ingenious Mathew paint a bronze and deep gold to give a warm, soft light.

There are aubergine and burnt-yellow rugs from Sinclair Till, cushions from Claremont and Fortuny, a coffee table from Rose Uniacke, photographs by Desiree Dolron and Mitch Epstein, and exquisite door furniture by Peter van Cronenburg. Understated luxury is the benchmark here. And now? 'Well, like a lot of people, I have become very keen on Thirties and Fifties architecture.' His removal man might expect a call soon □

OPPOSITE FROM ABOVE A simple desk and an upholstered chair from Robert Kime creates a study area in the corner of the main bedroom. A twin washstand designed by Rose Uniacke stands in the main bathroom. THIS PAGE FROM ABOVE In the spare room, a table lamp from Colefax and Fowler complements the soft grey walls. The bathroom walls are covered with tadelakt plaster, while the walk-in shower has a projecting marble base







n Home Counties terms, few houses can be more remote than Bradwell Lodge, tucked away where the Essex flatlands east of Chelmsford meet the sea. Yet few houses of its modest size anywhere can claim a more fascinating history, especially over the past 80 years or so. Though the landscape is uneventful, this is in fact a profoundly historic area. Two miles to the north-east lies the site of the Roman fort of Othona, built in the third century to protect against seaborne raiders, and on top of it sits the simple chapel constructed by St Cedd in the seventh century, constructed out of Roman bricks and stone. Bradwell Lodge is much more recent in origin – only fifteenth century, with an exquisite late-eighteenth-century addition – but the history that goes with it is more extraordinary still.

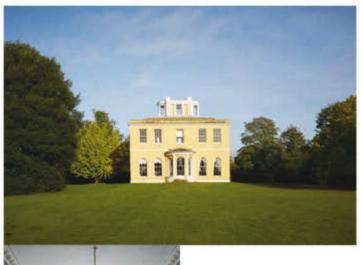
Architecturally speaking, the house is made up of a long, low Tudor wing, a regular rabbit warren of low-ceilinged rooms, to which in the 1780s a neoclassical pavilion was added, with rooms that are light and beautifully proportioned. The pavilion was commissioned by Henry Bate Dudley, a local landowner and member of parliament, who drained the surrounding marshes and introduced the latest advances of the agricultural revolution to this corner of Essex. Beyond that, however, his career also had a more picaresque side, with a spell in Newgate Prison for libelling the Duke of Richmond with his journalism – he founded the *Morning Post* – and covert involvement with smuggling. We can't be sure that his pavilion was specifically designed with smuggling in mind, but it is topped with a glass-sided belvedere room that commands a wide panorama over the flat countryside, from which at night it would have been easy to see the torches of any approaching revenue men.

For his architect, Dudley turned to John Johnson (1732–1814), not a name particularly well known then and still less now, who nevertheless demonstrated just what elegant and sophisticated designs a 'provincial'

THIS PAGE **CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT Current** owner Darcy John Serrell-Watts commissioned Quinlan Terry to design the porch. The paint on the drawing-room walls was mixed by the owner to complement the upholstery. The marble chimneypiece in the drawing room has painted panels attributed to Angelica Kauffmann. An arrangement of blue-and-white china surmounts the diningroom chimneypiece. **OPPOSITE The library** in the Tudor wing has bookcases from Langford Grove, a demolished house also designed by John Johnson; the bust of Darcy John is by Sheila Arbuthnot







THIS PAGE FROM TOP Gainsborough is said to have painted in the belvedere room that crowns the Georgian wing. The main staircase has an elegant wrought-iron balustrade. Allegedly haunted, this bedroom in the Tudor wing is decorated with 'Regent' wallpaper and matching blinds from Bernard Thorp. OPPOSITE In the Pink Room, a bold Bernard Thorp 'Brimble' fabric has been used on the walls and bed, and for the blind



man could produce in the Georgian period. He divided his career between London, where he designed handsome terrace houses in Mayfair and Marylebone, and Essex where he was county surveyor. His interiors generally show the influence of big-name contemporaries such as Robert Adam and James Wyatt, and this is certainly so at Bradwell Lodge. Here, the front door leads into a low-domed vestibule, which in turn gives into a taller one, domed and top-lit. To the left lies the Tudor wing, while to the right a few steps with scrolling ironwork achieve the change of level into the Georgian wing.

At the centre of the south front, within a curved bow, sits a small but lovely oval library, the bookcases curved to follow the walls and incorporating a remarkable, cast-iron neoclassical stove that remains flush with the shelving until pulled forward for use. To one side of the library lies the beautiful drawing room, which has the most elaborate ceiling in the house, inset with painted panels in monochrome grisaille. Prettier still is the marble chimneypiece, which has top-quality painted panels plausibly attributed to Angelica Kauffmann, whose election to the Royal Academy was promoted by Dudley. On the other side of the library is the dining room, where the chimneypiece frames a grate that can be either expanded or contracted according to how much heat is required. Practical ingenuity is indeed one of the hallmarks of Johnson's house. He carried the four chimneys up to the roof, where they act as the four pillars supporting the belvedere. Access to the belvedere, which is now via a very tight staircase emerging under a low lintel, seems originally to have incorporated some kind of canvas concertina that expanded upwards.

From Dudley's time we fast-forward to 1938, when the house was bought by Tom Driberg. Books have been written about Driberg's incredible and contradictory career: a communist for 20 years, despite being the son of a retired colonial official educated at public school and Oxford; a devout Anglo-Catholic who was variously said to be a KGB agent and MI5 informant; a married chairman of the Labour Party whose gay activities and infidelity, though notorious, were completely ignored by both the law and the press. He never quite had the income to cope with the demands of maintaining a country house, but after the war he was able to tackle a serious outbreak of dry rot at Bradwell with the help of a substantial cheque sent to him from Moscow by Guy Burgess, a former boyfriend. Having no children and loving the house, he offered to give it to the handsome 18-year-old son of a neighbour, Darcy John Serrell-Watts, whose family had farmed hereabouts for many generations. Fearing that there might be unwelcome strings attached, the gift was vetoed by Darcy John's parents. Then, three years later, the newly-wed Darcy John's mother offered to buy the house as a wedding present, but this time the veto came from the 17-year-old bride. It was not until 1994 that Darcy John and his French third wife, Sylvaine, were finally able to buy Bradwell.

The intermediate owners had been a group of left-wing Turkish dissidents, in whose time the house had been the setting for even more improbable and mysterious goings-on. Apart from bequeathing a very sophisticated and useful security system, the Turks left the house in poor condition, and the Serrell-Watts had much to do to make the house habitable and comfortable - rewiring, clearing rubbish, redecorating, not to mention removing wartime Nissen huts from the lawn. Architect Quinlan Terry was called in to mastermind the architectural aspects, designing an elegant entrance porch on the side elevation and an interpretation of an original cornice that had long since fallen off the house. He also gave authority to their proposal for a Pavlovsk-inspired ochre render for the Georgian wing. The latter initially fell foul of local planners, but with the arrival of a new and unexpectedly helpful English Heritage inspector, John Neale, the pieces at last fell into place. Twenty years on, Bradwell Lodge has matured into such a liveable and loveable house that it is hard to credit the extraordinarily varied history that it has had \(\sigma \)

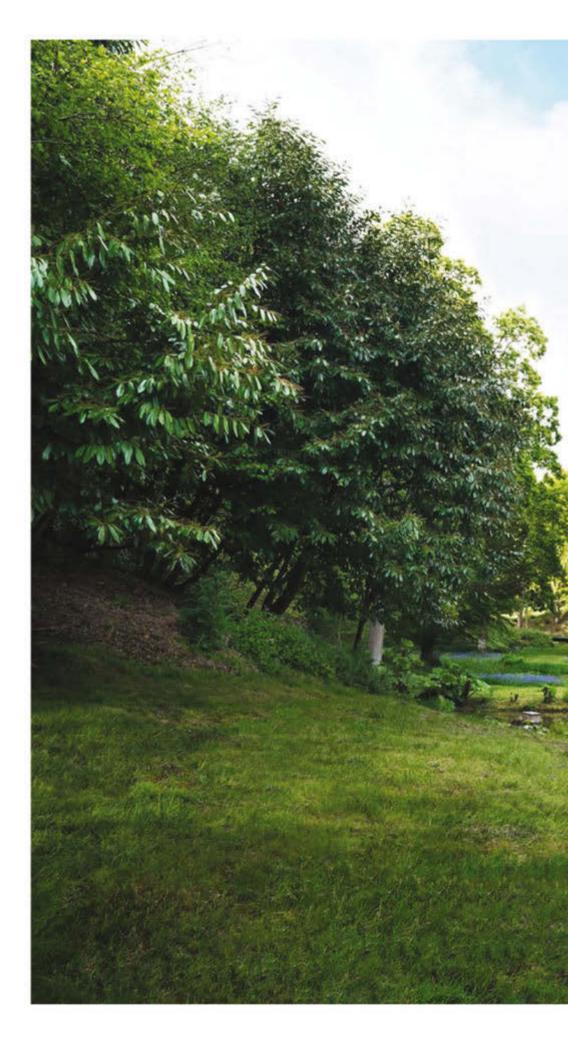
Quinlan & Francis Terry Architects: www.qftarchitects.com



In clear sight

Deep in the East Sussex countryside sits a modern house beautifully framed by its leafy surroundings

TEXT NATALIA RACHLIN
PHOTOGRAPHS MEL YATES
LOCATIONS EDITOR LIZ ELLIOT



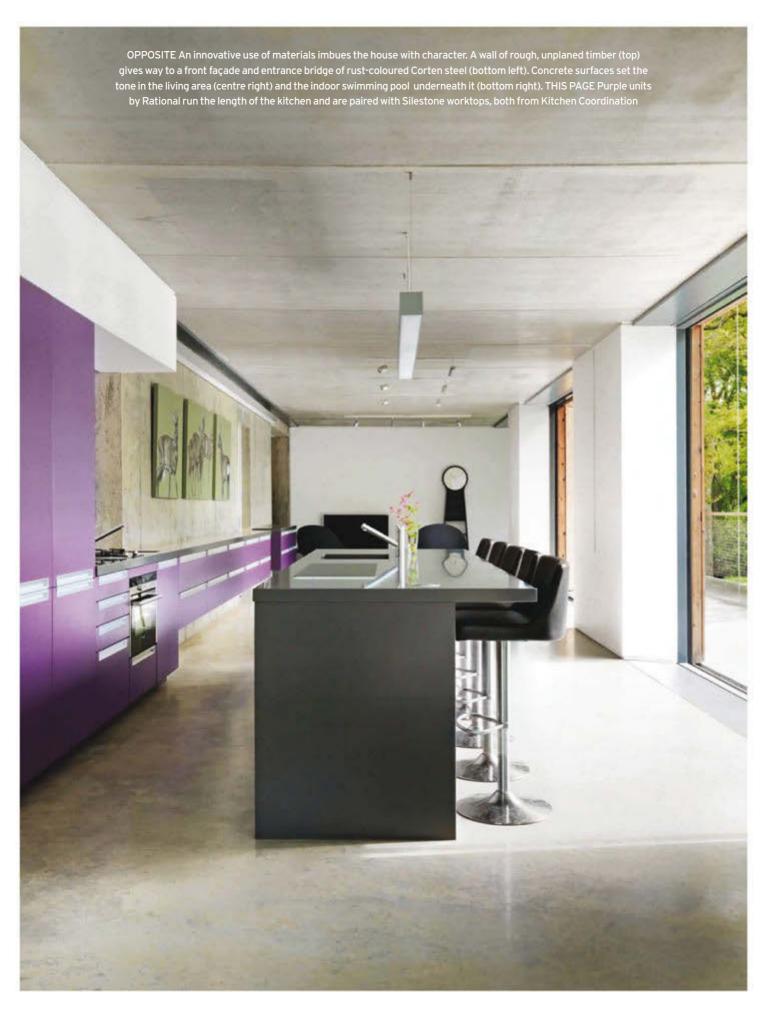
















n a spectacularly green plot of ancient woodland bordering Ashdown Forest in East Sussex, a handful of handsome, black-feathered chickens strut about, circling the perimeter of a slanted-roof coop, from which they have a rather fantastic view. In front of their humble country abode sits an unexpectedly contemporary house, a boxy three-level home, with a façade of greying timber and rust-coloured Corten steel, which somehow feels entirely sensible, organic even, amid vast views of working farmlands and 22 acres of beech, oak and sweet-chestnut trees lurking in the background.

Designed by London's Smerin Architects, the house was built on the back of a simple brief: the clients, a London-based couple with four children, wanted a space that was elegant, decisively modern, energy efficient and, most of all, practical. Initially, it would be used as a weekend and holiday home but, with time, the family planned to live there year round.

'Everything needed to have a purpose here, to be justified. Nothing was just for effect,' explains Piers Smerin. 'Rural buildings tend to have that straightforward, functional element to them, and we're in farm country here, so I thought that mentality was very relevant.' Accordingly, the 345-square-metre house has an uncomplicated scheme, with utilities and an indoor swimming pool at ground level, living space at the raised-driveway level and bedrooms on the first floor.

Entering the house via a small bridge, also fabricated in Corten steel, the open-plan living, dining and kitchen area opens out on to a veranda that runs along the back and one side of the house. With a stainless-steel railing supported by thin rods hung from the sedum-planted roof, the projecting veranda elegantly expands the living space without adding to the overall footprint of the house. At each end of the concrete-heavy ground floor, angular nooks with oversize windows create a

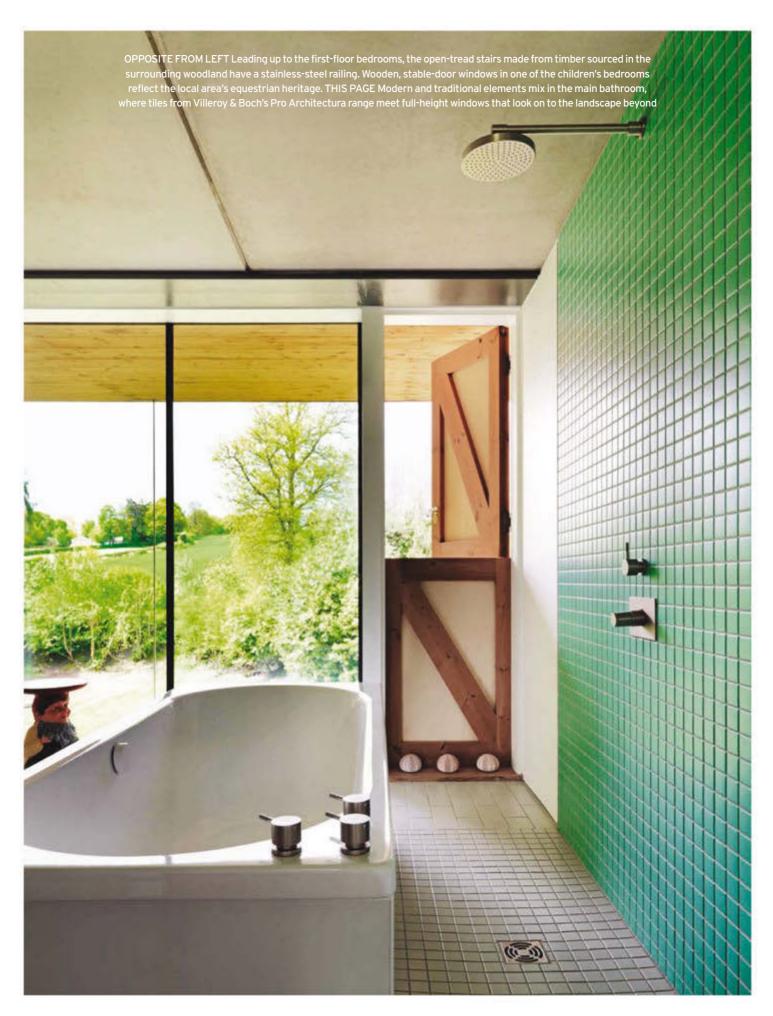
sense of privacy and separation, allowing the family to be together while engaged in different activities.

In the hallway, oak stairs made with timber taken from the surrounding woodlands and cantilevered from the supporting concrete walls lead upstairs, while stainless-steel rods create a railing that mimics the technique used in the floating outdoor veranda. On the first floor, compact bedrooms and two separate bathrooms are placed neatly back-to-back, and in several of the children's rooms, wooden stabledoor windows open on to views of rolling farmland, in a nod to the region's equestrian traditions.

'The thing about this location is that it's not precious,' says Piers, referring to the area's enduringly rustic appeal. 'So I wasn't afraid to do something a bit bolder with the house: I didn't really want to go back to that chocolate-box idea of what you should do in the countryside.'

Undoubtedly the house stands as a lone example of a more modernist tradition in the neighbourhood—if one can call the sparsely populated area that—but when viewed from a distance, its rust-coloured front almost seems a deceptively subtle, contemporary nod to the barns that line the surrounding hills. Perfectly proportioned, the house only reveals its true size when seen straight on; from the driveway it appears much more modest, slowly widening into a sculptural, but entirely functional, addition to the landscape. The greatest sign of the house's success? This past spring, much earlier than they had anticipated, the family moved in full-time, lured by the house, of course, and the serenity of the countryside; the clucking of the family's chickens is the only sound to be heard for miles \square

Smerin Architects: www.smerin.co.uk



Shine & shade

Gabby Deeming creates a chic modernist palette using bold colour combinations set off by reflective surfaces



THIS PAGE WALLS Fabric wallcovering, 'Pressed Powder' (6112), by Phillip Jeffries, 91.4cm wide, £70 a metre, at Robert Allen. Perspex door covering (6643), £127 for a 255 x 203cm sheet, from Perspex.co.uk. Polished-brass lever handle, 'Hand', £408 a pair, at Charles Edwards. Skirting paint, 'Jack Black', £37 for 2.5 litres matt emulsion, at Little Greene. FLOOR Wool rug, 'Velvet' (jade 320), by Kasthall, £621.60 a square metre, at Sinclair Till. FURNITURE Wrought-iron and leather armchair, 'JMF' (edition of 100), 87 x 55 x 52cm, £16,200, at Hermès. ACCESSORIES Fifties brass concertina wall light, 43 x 12 x 60cm, £750, at Sigmar. Framed print, 'ERB \$15', £570, at Twentytwentyone. Oak frames, £1,800 for seven mixed sizes, at Sigmar. OPPOSITE WALLS Paint, 'Drummond', £37 for 2.5 litres matt emulsion, at Little Greene. WINDOW Wooden curtain pole (matt black), 170 x 3.8cm diameter; with finials, brackets and rings, 'Byzantium', £470 (complete set); all from Fabricant. Curtain fabric, 'Deniz' (indigo), by Lee Jofa, linen/cotton, £115 a metre, at G P & J Baker. Blind fabric, 'Obi' (ichi), by Zak + Fox, cotton, £209 a metre, at George Spencer. FLOOR Cotton rug, 'Herringbone' (grey), by Vandra, £496.50 a square metre, at Sinclair Till. FURNITURE Armchair, 'Granta', 115 x 78 x 85cm, £1,722, at Julian Chichester; covered in 'Chandor Plain' (16 and 12), viscose mix, £66 a metre, at Osborne & Little. Enamelled drum tabletop (blue), 5 x 150cm diameter, £2,100; and steel base, 'Dakota' (antique nickel finish), 72 x 60cm diameter, £2,117; both at Julian Chichester. ACCESSORIES Bronze and mouth-blown crystal wall lights, 'Lure', by Alison Berger, £2,600 each, at Holly Hunt. Terracotta tableware, from £6.50 for a small bowl, from Saudade Shop. Cotton ikat napkins, £17.95 (set of four), at Toast. Glass bowls, 'Dandy', by Nason Moretti, £150 a pair, at Mint. Floral arrangement, from £45, at Achillea Flowers. For suppliers' details, see Stockists page







WALLS Paint, 'Peony Pink', £39 for 2.5 litres matt emulsion, at Sanderson. Curtain fabric, 'Ubundu' (ivory), linen, 310cm wide, £110.20 a metre, at Nya Nordiska. Bespoke steel doors and frame, 297 x 385cm, from £9,000, at Clement Windows. FLOOR Wool rug, 'Ben M Rit', 200 x 300cm, £2,100, at The Conran Shop. FURNI-TURE Cypress and ebonised-oak dresser, 'Downtown Modern', 90 x 170 x 53cm, £9,925, at Ralph Lauren Home. Walnut and leather armchair, 'Safari', by Carl Auböck, 76 x 55 x 62cm, £6,000 a pair, at Sigmar. Chair, 'Simplified Scallop' (blue velvet), 82 x 51 x 65cm, £1,950, at Soane. Oak cabinet, by Kaare Klint, 154.5 x 118 x 59cm, £8,200, at Sigmar. Sofa, 'Hogarth', covered in 'Linara' (antique white), by Romo, 78 x 176 x 90cm, £2,275, at The Sofa & Chair Company. Laminate marquetry and powder-coated-steel table, 'Moon Rock', by Bethan Laura Wood, 22 x 86cm diameter, from £3,000, from Nilufar. Resin and patinated-steel coffee table, 'Lunar' (midnight blue), 50 x 70cm diameter, £4,095, from McCollin Bryan. **ACCESSORIES** Etching and aquatint painting, Small Dogs, by David Hockney, £12,000, at Sims Reed Gallery. Crystal-glazed glass bottles, by Milan Pekar: small, £175; medium, £400; and large, £600; at Mint. Vintage, painted-metal watering cans, from left: £600 and £750, at Robert Young Antiques. Wool throw, 'Everyday' (indigo), 180 x 140cm, £475, at The Conran Shop. Cushions, from left: 'Toile de Tour Behanzin' (ecru ground/noir/giroflée), by Le Manach, cotton mix, £339 a metre, at Claremont; 'Jessup' (sepia/indigo), by Oscar de le Renta for Lee Jofa, cotton, £145 a metre, at GP & J Baker; and 'Toile de Tour Bamako' (ecru ground/noir), by Le Manach, cotton mix, £274 a metre, at Claremont. For suppliers' details, see Stockists page





LET THERE BE light

Tucked away in a leafy area of central Brussels, next to a cluster of studios, is an unusual building that has been turned into a bright and modern home by its artist owner Isabelle de Borchgrave

TEXT JOHANNA THORNYCROFT | PHOTOGRAPHS ANDREAS VON EINSIEDEL







t took artist Isabelle de Borchgrave years to find her perfect studio in Brussels. When she discovered an extensive warren of Sixties workshops and garages in the heart of the city, she knew that she had found her new workplace. Once her spectacular new studio was completed, however - the end result was featured in House & Garden in February 2012 – she turned her attention to the derelict, nineteenth-century building that stood beside it, realising that this might just make the perfect home.

Known only as the Chapelle, the rectangular, red-brick structure's original use remains something of a mystery, but it has provided the canvas for a remarkable collaboration between the owners and their architect friend. Claire Bataille of Wave Architecture. Isabelle had already designed and planted the garden, which wraps around three sides of the walled space, so that the many shrubs and roses had matured magnificently by early 2014 when Isabelle and her husband and business partner Werner moved in.

From the street, chaussée de Vleurgat, there is no sign of change behind the forlorn plateglass showroom windows. 'We tried for ages to buy the street-front area, but it never happened,' says Werner. It is an unusual way to reach home and work, but, through a single, anonymous door, a world of light and dramatic space opens up. The greatest challenge was to provide enough light, and now glass walls give vistas right through a large gallery space and beyond to the garden. Ahead is a walkway with several doors to copious storage rooms, beyond which is an expansive ground-floor lobby with a massive glass wall adjacent to the brick boundary wall. To the left is the entrance to the de Borchgrave residence and ahead is the staircase to the studios above. With the door open, the house can spill out into the lobby, the two spaces feeling as one and working together when required. 'We were worried about the downsizing element on paper, but in reality Claire was right - it's great,' says Werner.

Upon entering the Chapelle, one of the first striking things is the over-scaling of ceiling heights and doorways, and the sweep of light reflecting off polished-concrete floors. The 'front' door does not lead into anything as predictable as a hall, but rather straight into the kitchen. One side of this comprises massive

OPPOSITE A cantilevered staircase leads up to the main bedroom; a jib door below conceals storage. THIS PAGE CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT Isabelle's painted-paper vases add interest in the reception of her gallery space. Glass-fronted cupboards store china along the kitchen wall next to two tables; a paper light by Isabelle hangs above











sliding windows with a fish pond filling the entire space between it and the Chapelle, reached via a set of steps about a metre above the entrance level. Jib doors, often with shelves on the inside, conceal storage at every turn. A walk-in pantry in the kitchen, a generous cloakroom, a wall of glass-fronted cupboards for china and glassware - every centimetre was carefully analysed and created by Claire, who managed the same task for the studios.

The main part of the house is connected to the kitchen by a walkway and covered outdoor seating area. The architectural challenge again was to provide enough daylight plus a small bedroom, bathroom, dressing room and occasional grandchild's room at mezzanine level without compromising the lofty roof height of the building. To maximise light where two outer walls remained solid brick, a curved Perspex roof light was inserted along the length of the building. Three existing, impressive roundtopped arches at the narrow end were glazed and include a pair of immense glass doors; these provide the primary light source for the house. At ground level, a further bedroom was required plus a sizeable utility space. A solution was found whereby the zen-like bedroom and utility area have been concealed behind a barely noticeable cantilevered staircase.

While every surface has been painted bright white, Isabelle loves colour, and her vivid textile collection, which she displays on tables and the glass balustrade, adds shots of red, yellow and blue. 'Textiles have always inspired my work,' she notes. In fact, her painted paper costume collections, based on historic patterns and designs, have toured the world, dazzling those who see, not for the first time, what she can create from paper - even wedding dresses and delicate lace veils.

Downsizing may often be difficult but the de Borchgraves and Claire have used the volume of the old building to maximum advantage, accepting that bedrooms can be smaller as long as storage, entertaining and living space is generous. Throughout the house, Isabelle's multi-talented hand can be seen. Wire and paper have been twisted and fashioned into whimsical hanging lights, a corner glows where a pair of white paper violins sparkle with tiny bulbs, the silver metal fire screen is her creation as are the many giant painted-paper jars. It's a creative space, in every sense of the word \Box

Isabelle de Borchgrave: www.isabelledeborchgrave.com Wave Architecture: www.bataille-ibens.be

THIS PAGE FROM ABOVE The red-brick exterior. Isabelle sits in her adjacent studio, next to a work in progress. OPPOSITE A low wall separates the main bedroom and bathroom; the floating plywood shelf doubles as a bedside table



The challenge for interior designer Penny Morrison at this Victorian terrace was to create a home for a bachelor – without the stereotypical furnishings

TEXT CAROLINE CLIFTON-MOGG PHOTOGRAPHS ALICIA TAYLOR LOCATIONS EDITOR LAVINIA BOLTON



The drawing room has pale-green walls by specialist painter Cornelia Faulkner and curtains in 'Samos' embroidered linen by Vaughan Designs; the antique Moroccan rug is from Irving & Morrison









escriptions of individual rooms in literature are often beguiling-take, for example, Dorothy L Sayers' 1923 description of supersleuth Lord Peter Wimsey's library: 'One of the most delightful bachelor rooms in London. Its scheme was black and primrose; its walls were lined with rare editions, and its chairs and Chesterfield sofa suggested the embraces of the houris. In one corner stood a black baby grand, a wood fire leaped on a wide old-fashioned hearth, and the Sèvres vases on the chimneypiece were filled with ruddy and gold chrysanthemums... like a colourful and gilded paradise in a medieval painting.'

It is possible that a houri is no longer an essential accessory for the average bachelor house, and perhaps a gilded paradise is not every man's dream, but even so, there is still a difference between the comfortable schemes favoured by single men, and those preferred by single women. Neither a question of male versus female, nor of lazy stereotypes – florals for the ladies, distressed leather for the gents – it is more an ethos, a comprehension of priorities.

This understanding of priorities is one of the essentials of a good interior designer, coupled with the ability to suit the design and THIS PAGE CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT A Brian Yates wallcovering provides the backdrop for a collection of prints in the hall. Across lies the conservatory dining room, with a tiled floor from Walton Ceramics. The back garden is split into different levels, including a terrace for dining and a raised seating area. OPPOSITE A handpainted Irving & Morrison lamp brightens a corner of the drawing room; the herringbone wool carpet is from Roger Oates









the decoration of a space to the owner's life – an essential of which Penny Morrison, who designed the house shown here, is well aware: 'When you do a house for a single man, I find that you almost play the part of the woman in his life. You think about the practicalities, how the house will comfortably run – how large the linen cupboards should be, where the machines should be positioned; what's needed in practical terms. And then you design it so that everything works, is easily accessible and relatively discreet.'

The owner also required enough entertaining space and room for living, as well as large bathrooms and enough storage; not only wardrobe storage but also 'stuff' storage, from linen to kitchen equipment to paperwork. The house in question was a typically Victorian, largely unmodernised London terrace in a pretty square. It was not unduly endowed with storage of any kind, so it was up to Penny to work out exactly what would be necessary and where – a conundrum she solved by utilising space on half-landings and in dark basement corners that might otherwise have been left overlooked and underused.

The ground-floor rooms in these Victorian town houses are never entirely satisfactory; sometimes quite dark and usually narrow, and described by Penny as often having 'a whiff THIS PAGE CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE LEFT
Oak chairs with linen slipcovers surround an antique oak table in the basement kitchen.
Units by Harrison & Pope are painted in 'Powder Blue' by Farrow & Ball. In the sitting area, the neutral walls are enlivened with a painting by Emily Lamb; the rug is from Robert Stephenson



FROM ABOVE In the main bathroom, a clock and woodwork painted in 'Shaded White' by Farrow & Ball add a masculine touch. Printed fabrics abound in the main bedroom: the headboard, quilt and curtains are all from Chelsea Textiles

of the dentist's waiting room'. In this house, though, the drawing room had already been made lighter, with glass doors leading out to a balcony overlooking the sunken garden. However, more could be done, and Penny suggested making this area into a conservatory dining room, opening on to a balcony.

The reworking was a success, but as so often happens with success, other areas were then found wanting. It became evident that the floor below - the basement kitchen and the back garden – needed reconfiguring in order to balance the newly important ground floor, particularly since modern-living preferences mean that people often want to congregate around both the kitchen and garden. So the several small rooms and cupboards that made up the basement were taken out and the area turned into an informal sitting area at one end, which progresses naturally and stylistically into a warm but uncluttered, painted wooden kitchen at the garden end. Not that there was much of a garden at that juncture; rather, more of a shallow dark well with a 1.8-metre-high retaining wall obscuring the rest of the open space. The retaining wall was removed and the earth in front of the basement door was dug away to make enough space for a table and chairs. Shallow steps lead up through two levels to an upper gravelled area complete with a stone bench and raised beds filled with clipped box balls.

Upstairs on the first floor, there are fewer bedrooms than you might imagine in a house of this size: a large main bedroom, a pleasant spare room and a small single room; plus a large bathroom or two and a dressing room. As Penny says, 'It is a mistake to cram in too many bedrooms when they are not required.'

The colours here are peaceful and pleasant, as they are throughout the house. Above all, I wanted the colours to be calm; this pale colour palette, which I also used for the chair and sofa covers, makes a narrow house seem less claustrophobic and fussy, and meant that I could add pattern through the other textiles.'

This side of the decoration was made more difficult by the fact that the owner doesn't particularly care for flowers and plants around the house. 'You don't realise,' says Penny, 'what a difference living plants make until you plan a house without them.' Her solution was to encourage the owner to fill the house with art instead; he naturally wanted to have things that meant something to him and so, as well as paintings, every room is now filled with sculptures, photographs and rare books. And, rather than simply being there to serve a decorative purpose, these collected possessions contribute enormously to the overall warm atmosphere of the house: a house that is lived in and enjoyed \square

Penny Morrison: 01547-560460; www.pennymorrison.com

KNOWLEDGE



HIGH EXPECTATIONS Pages 140-147

1 ARTWORK The owner of this London flat has an enviable collection of photography. Lumas (020-7434 4431; www.lumas.co.uk) sells expertly printed and framed art photography in limited editions. Pictured is House of Fefa (hall) - Havana, by Werner Pawlok; at 140 x 196cm and sealed under glossy acrylic glass, it costs £2,399.

2 BED The four poster in the spare room is simply draped with cream linen. Try the 'Wardour' by Benchmark for The Conran Shop (0844-848 4000; www.the conranshop.co.uk). It can be draped in a similar way, or the patinated-brass rods at the top can slide out so they can be hung with curtains. It measures 260 x 195 x 215cm and costs £8,495.

3 PENDANT LIGHT The glass pendant lights hung in a row along the turquoise hallway are the 'Lanterna 477' by Oluce, Made from transparent Murano glass with a sandblasted inner cone, they measure 31 x 24cm diameter and are available from Chaplins (020-8421 1779; www.chaplins. co.uk). Each light costs £640.

A RICH I

1 PLASTERWORK
The bookshelves in
the library of Bradwell
Lodge have intricate
plasterwork. This
neoclassical design
from Locker & Riley
(01245-322022;
www.lockerandriley.
com) is similar. The
side drops measure
3cm and the 86.4cm
top bough is curved

to each customer's

requirements;

it costs £16.95.

2 PIETRA DURA The two roundels of birds and ribbons on either side of the drawing-room windows are nineteenth-century pietra dura, a form of inlay using coloured stones. This pair of framed, Italian pietra dura panels dates from c.1820. The panels cost £9,000 and measure 43 x 29cm each; they are available through **Guinevere Antiques** (020-7736 2917; www.guinevere.co.uk).

3 CHAIR If the Louis XVI bergères in the drawing room take your fancy, Tarquin Bilgen Antiques (020-7259 0111; www. tarquinbilgen.com) is a good port of call for something similar. Currently in stock is this nineteenthcentury French bergère. It measures 97 x 73 x 70cm and is one of a pair that costs £7,900.



A RICH INHERITANCE Pages 148-153

Inspired by the houses in this issue, Bonnie Robinson gives directions on how to achieve similar style



LET THERE BE LIGHT Pages 166-171

1 BEDCOVER The floral quilt that is draped over the bed in the main bedroom of Isabelle de Borchgrave's house was found on a trip to Bangladesh, Made from discarded saris, the distinctive 'Kolkata' throws from Luma (020-8748 2264; www.lumadirect.com) have a similar vibrant look, and cost from £125.

2 MIRROR The convex mirror mounted on the wall of the sitting area was taken from a decommissioned telescope. If you are looking for something on the same scale, consider this 'Buckingham' mirror from Neptune (01793-427427; www.neptune.com), which measures 100cm diameter and costs £210.

3 FIREGUARD The fireguard in the sitting room with its filigree of ferns is one of Isabelle de Borchgrave's own designs. The 'Fougères' fireguard is available to purchase online at www.isabellede borchgrave.com; it measures 72 x 102cm and costs €2,150.

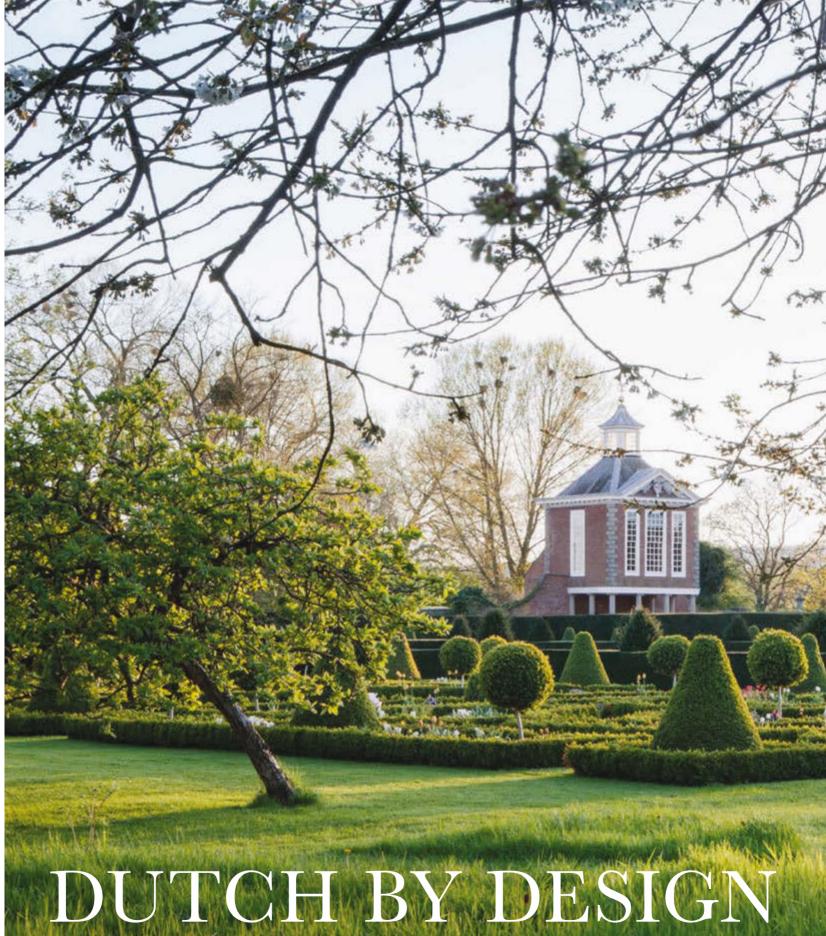


1 FABRIC

The hand-embroidered linen and cotton fabric used to upholster the headboard in the main bedroom is 'Goli', a design by Alidad for Chelsea Textiles (020-7584 0111; www. chelseatextiles.com). Adorned with climbing tulips framed within abstract, scalloped flower heads, it costs £493 a metre.

2 DINING CHAIR Penny Morrison has chosen the 'Horseshoe' dining chair from Oka (0844-8157380; www.okadirect.com), which measures 97 x 52 x 64cm. A set of four costs £769, or they can be purchased individually for £220. Also from Oka are the linen slipcovers; available in a range of colours, they cost £65 each.

3 LAMPSHADE The sprig-adorned lampshades in the drawing room are 'Primavera Pleat' from Irving & Morrison (020-73718465; irvingandmorrison. com). Hand-blockedprinted silk is delicately gathered and edged in a green silk trim. The lampshade measures 30 x 46cm diameter and costs £343.20 □



Despite changing tastes and periods of neglect, Westbury Court in Gloucestershire still has many elements of its Dutch-style gardens, originally designed in the eighteenth century

TEXT ANNA PAVORD | PHOTOGRAPHS SABINA RÜBER



estbury Court in Gloucestershire is, as far as gardens go, a rare and original example of the craze for all things Dutch that swept over this country when William and Mary came to the throne in 1689. Other gardens in the Dutch style – intimate, enclosed creations with long canals, topiary, evergreen hedges, fruit trees trained out on mellow brick walls – were certainly made, but most of them sadly disappeared as a result of the landscaping zeal of Capability Brown and his kind.

Though the house at Westbury was rebuilt several times from the late seventeenth century onwards, the gardens never changed. Pictures from the Edwardian era show the canals, the topiary and the elegant tall pavilion gazing down on the strip of long water, looking much the same as they did in the first picture ever engraved of the place. This was Johannes Kip's bird's-eye view of Westbury, made for the owner Maynard Colchester around 1707.

The Kip engraving shows the garden in enchanting detail: rabbits

in the warren; ducks on the pond; and with the long, parallel lines of the canal, hedges and walls that gave this garden its particularly Dutch character. In the Sixties, when the garden, with no house and in a derelict state, eventually came into the hands of the National Trust, the Kip engraving became a critical factor in the decision to embark on a full-scale

restoration. It was the only document that showed how Westbury looked in its heyday – or at least how Maynard Colchester wanted it to look.

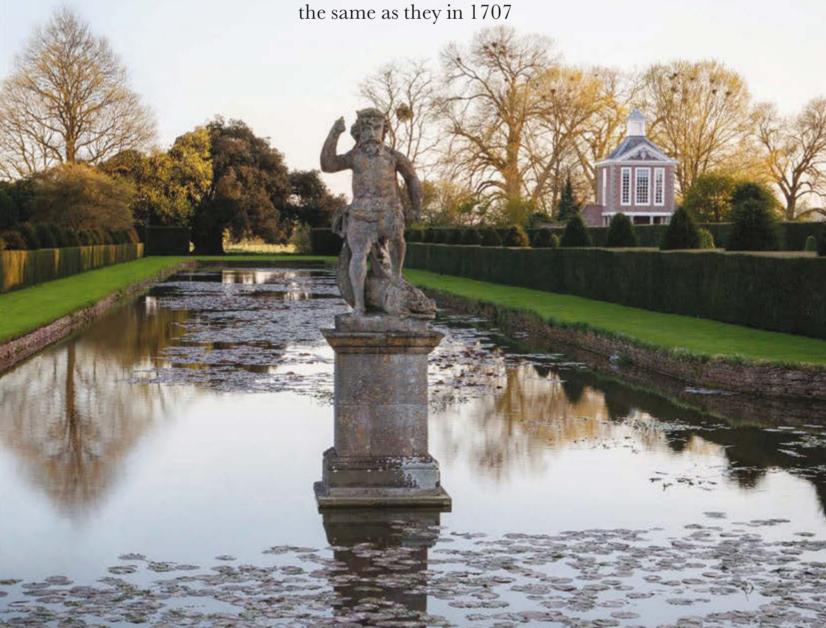
Garden history is all the rage now, with garden trusts in almost every county busy with research. But, in the Sixties, it scarcely existed as a subject fit for study, so it was brave of the National Trust to embark on its first full restoration of a historic garden here. The place was at least small — only five acres — but the canals had silted up, the retaining walls had collapsed and the hedges grown out, and the enchanting gazebo and pavilion were both derelict.

In planning the restoration, the Trust had another stroke of luck. Colchester's account books were found in the County Record Office and provided detailed evidence of what was done, when and how. In September 1698, for instance, there's a note recording £15.7s.0d paid to Thomas Wintle for laying 87,850 bricks. On February 19, 1702, Mr Wells the gardener was paid for '64 plumbs, 24 pears, 70 cherries, 12 Scotch firs, 6 peaches, 1 apricock, and 12 filbeards [filberts]'. The cost was £5.1s.0d.

It was a very busy year, 1702, for Colchester also laid out £2.7s.0d

on '4 perimyd hollys, 1 perimead yew, 6 lawrestinus headed, 6 headed phillereys, 2 perimyd phillereys, 2 headed honysuckles, 30 plain phillereys, 5 mizerean trees, 12 tuberoses, 1 bay'. All these can now be found again at Westbury, where the gardener-in-charge, Jerry Green, has, for the past 14 years, been very carefully putting back

The canals, topiary and elegant tall pavilion gaze down on the long strip of water, looking much the same as they in 1707







into place some of the elements not included in the original restoration.

A row of 'perimyd phillereys', or *Phillyrea angustifolia*, once again marches along the back of the T-shape canal, and the beds of the parterre are full of plants of the period: gorgeous auriculas, striped tulips and irises in spring with blue-flowered convolvulus and pinks, clary and pot marigolds for summer. The brick walls surrounding the garden are planted with a superb collection of fruit trees known before 1700, all meticulously trained as fans and espaliers.

In spring the walls come to life with the white blossom of pears such as 'Jargonelle', a meltingly juicy variety known since the seventeenth century, buttery 'Forelle' grown since 1670 and 'Chaumontel', named after the French chateau where it was first discovered. Jerry credits his predecessor, Ken Vaughan, with establishing the fruit, now beautifully looked after by a volunteer, who likes the orderliness and the precision of pruning the wall-trained trees.

Though the Trust estimated the garden would need to be maintained by two gardeners, there has only ever been one, and they've all had to take

on the monumental task of clipping the long yew hedges alongside the canals, as well as 225 pieces of topiary, most of which is done with hand shears. Jerry has reintroduced vegetable beds to the garden, with pre-1700 varieties of pumpkin, squash and sweetcorn. Colchester's account books record payments for bean and pea seeds as well as 2,000 asparagus plants. The

present asparagus bed is more modest, but it is good to see it back in place.

A vast amount of silt was dredged out of the canals during the Trust's original restoration and dumped on the ground east of the canals, where the two box-edged parterres have been recreated. There was so much of the stuff that it raised the level of the ground by approximately a metre. But in winter, the quiet brook that bounds Westbury to the south and east regularly bursts its banks and pours into the garden. Flooding is a problem, as it always has been. An Edwardian visitor wrote of being boated out of the house's dining-room window during a winter inundation, and since then the situation has become worse rather than better.

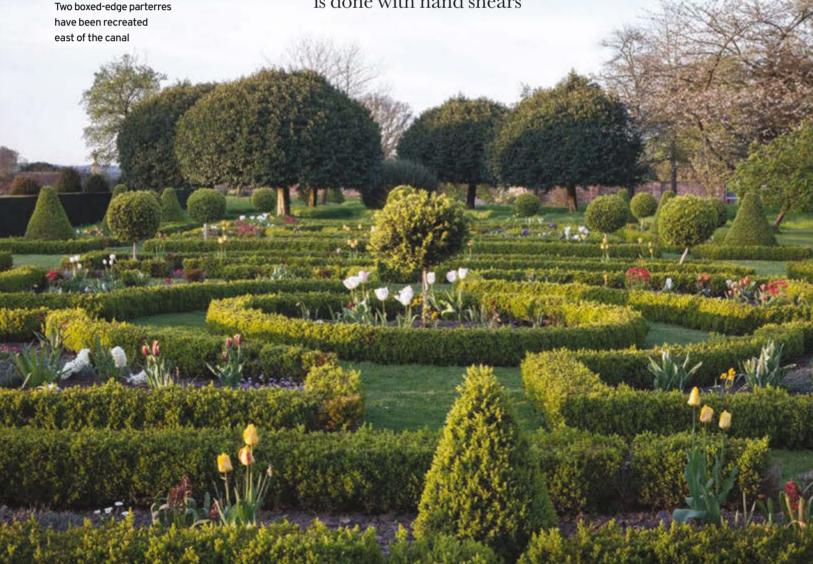
Fortunately, the Trust has recently acquired some of the meadows surrounding the garden and hopes that by careful management, the floodwater can be directed away. The yew trees, on which so much of the garden's structure depends, particularly hate having wet feet, and it has not been easy to keep the hedges in good heart. One tree, however, seems to have been impervious to flood and tempest. This is a *Quercus ilex*, or holm oak, a vast, burred, imperturbable creature that

stands close to the pavilion on the southern boundary. Over the past 400 years, while all around it has decayed, it alone has endured. Of all the sights to see in this enchanting garden, this is perhaps the most astonishing \square

Westbury Court Garden: 01452-760461; www.nationaltrust.org.uk/westbury-court-garden

HOUSEANDGARDEN.CO.UK APRIL 2015

The monumental task of clipping the long yew hedges along the canals, and 225 pieces of topiary, is done with hand shears







NORTHERN EXPOSURE

Continuing her series on British nurseries, Clare Foster is in Cumbria to visit Summerdale Garden & Nursery, and meets its passionate owners Gail and David Sheals

IT IS AURICULA TIME at Summerdale Garden & Nursery in Cumbria and the tables in the polytunnels are laden with plants. Like magpies, visitors swoop in, ready to be seduced by the glittering array of plants laid out for them. With their jewel-like colours and exquisitely patterned petals, auriculas are one of the most beguiling and collectable groups of plants. Nursery owner Gail Sheals came under their spell some years ago, and has built up a collection of nearly 300 varieties that are sold each spring in the small nursery she runs with husband David from their home in the Lake District.

Both retired doctors, Gail and David bought the eighteenth-century former vicarage 17 years ago, falling in love with its beautiful setting and the views of nearby Farleton Fell. The house and garden were in need of restoration, and by the time work had finished on the interior, funds were dwindling, so they started propagating their own plants for the garden. At this stage, they had no thoughts of opening a nursery. Focusing on creating a garden in the one and a half acres around the house, Gail began to divide the space up into various 'rooms' to make it easier to manage. The garden that slowly emerged was charming, its distinctive areas divided by yew and hornbeam hedges, and linked by cobbled paths. A walk round the garden takes you from the formal herbaceous borders at the front of the house, through a spring garden and gravel garden at the side, to the back garden, where a sloping path winds up through woodland borders and down again through a hedge-enclosed terrace, with a bog garden and exotic garden to round the journey off. The strong framework is balanced by generous planting and because there are so many different microclimates within each area, the variety of different plants that Gail is able to grow is astonishing, from woodland bulbs to tetrapanax in the exotic garden.

Word about the garden soon spread, and when the local National Gardens Scheme representative knocked on the door to ask whether they would open it to the public once or twice a year, Gail agreed. Because she was growing all her own plants, selling excess seedlings on open days seemed a logical step, and then things snowballed. 'A local nursery owner who we knew moved to France, so we bought all her stock and decided to open a nursery ourselves,' says Gail. She persuaded her daughter Abi to come and help – she has since left to open her own nursery, Abi and Tom's Garden Plants, at Halecat nearby. David retired three years ago and is also helping full-time with the nursery.

Summerdale now offers a broad mix of plants, including Barnhaven primulas, shade-loving perennials and, of course, the auriculas,

RIGHT 1 *Primula auricula* 'Good Report'. 2 The acre-and-a-half garden is divided into 'rooms' with cobble and brick paths. 3 'Old Irish Green'







which have become a particular passion. 'They're such beautiful plants and surprisingly easy to propagate by offsets,' says Gail. 'There is a great amateur tradition of hybridising auriculas and there are literally thousands of varieties, so we buy named varieties and propagate from them by splitting them in the autumn after flowering.' From their burgeoning list, there's a plant for every single letter of the alphabet bar'z', and sometimes, confesses Gail, she picks a plant not so much for its looks as its name. 'It intrigues me that these pretty little things are grown by big men, who give them names such as 'Kevin Keegan' and 'Roy Keane'.'

Typical for such historic, society-bred plants, auriculas are divided into multiple categories, with four main groups - Show, Alpine, Double and Border - and further subdivisions within these groups. The Show auriculas, which can be edged or striped, are exquisitely beautiful, but trickier to grow than the Alpines or Borders, which are less susceptible to rain or sun damage. 'Most auriculas need a well-drained soil and partial shade,' explains Gail. 'The Alpines and Borders can be grown in the ground, but I always recommend growing them in pots or troughs.' Gail recommends over-wintering them in a cool greenhouse or shed, as they need a period of dormancy. 'After you've divided and repotted, don't water them in winter as they need to be kept dry - they can tolerate any amount of cold but hate to be wet. Then in mid February, you'll notice the leaves starting to look a bit perkier, and you can begin watering them again as the flower stalk starts growing.'

When it comes to selecting varieties, it all comes down to personal taste. One customer might fall in love with 'Old Irish Green', a border auricula with green-edged maroon flowers, while another might be drawn to the sumptuous, deep-red double 'Funny Valentine'. The choice is yours, but one thing is certain: it's impossible to buy just one, especially if you have a collector's mentality.

The optimum time to visit Summerdale Garden & Nursery is on a Friday between March and September, when both the garden and nursery are open. In April and May, auriculas and primulas will be at their best, and a traditional wooden auricula theatre will be on display in the courtyard near the house, showing off the most covetable auriculas to tempt everyone who sets eyes on them □

Summerdale Garden & Nursery is open from March to September, Thursday to Saturday. The garden is open every Friday, with additional National Gardens Scheme open days on May 3 and June 21. Mail order is also available: 01539-567210; www.summerdalegardenplants.co.uk

OPPOSITE 4 Auriculas crowd the polytunnels. 5 A log arch adds a rustic note to a woodland corner. 6 At the side of the house lies the spring garden







Wine & Food

TASTE NOTES | RECIPES | SIMPLE SUPPERS

News, reviews and tips for cooks and wine lovers, by Joanna Simon



'BABA'S RASHI AND DIBIS' is an intriguing Middle Eastern sweet spread made from sesame, date molasses and spices. Traditionally eaten on warm pitta or other bread, it can be spread on toast, spooned on to porridge, yogurt, rice pudding, pancakes or ice cream, or sandwiched between biscuits or meringues. It costs £4.50 for a 200g jar and is part of a range of Arabian specialities, including spice mixes, oils, sumac, sauces and relishes, from www.terra-rossa.com.



As a change from elderflower, try this SAGE-FLOWER CORDIAL made without artificial additives from wild-sage flowers hand picked in Croatia by Pavle Svaic, who was inspired by and taught about edible plants by his grandmother. The

range of five Agroposta cordials, including a delicate lavender, comes in 32ml sachets, to be diluted with 200ml still or sparkling water, £1.80, from Linden Leaf (07735-209040; www.lindenleaf.co.uk).



Once, you had to be in a Michelin-starred restaurant to enjoy Iain Burnett's luxurious, handmade 'VELVET' TRUFFLES – so-named because they are unrobed with no shell – but last autumn, three flavours were launched online and in the Scottish Chocolate Centre in Grandtully, near Aberfeldy. Now a fourth has been introduced: salted raspberry and Szechuan pepper salt. Originally, it was created as a one-off for the inaugural Great British Salted Chocolate Challenge but, after it won the competition, it has been added to the range available to buy at www.highlandchocolatier.com and in the Scottish Chocolate Centre (01887-840775), £12.95 for a 90g box of 12.





A cookery book by Diana Henry is always a cue to grab an apron. A BIRD IN THE HAND (Mitchell Beazley, £20), a collection of chicken recipes of every kind, is no exception. Some recipes sound comfortingly familiar while others are more unusual, and there's an indispensable chapter on using up the remains of the bird.



WINES OF THE MONTH

JOAN'S HOLE is the orchard in the

Vale of Abberley,

to this new damson

gin – to be produced only in years that

escape late frosts.

furniture designer

acquired it in the early Eighties, has

taken many years

to restore, but the

quality of the first

vintage, 2011, is

testament to the

effort. It can be

drunk neat, with sparkling wine,

or with lemonade, £,18.50 for 35cl,

from www.joans

holegin.com.

Tim Newbold

The orchard, abandoned until

Worcestershire, which gives its name

The white and red **Les Abeilles de Colombo** are not only food-friendly Côtes du Rhônes but also bee friendly – hence the name 'Les Abeilles'. In addition to an annual donation from Jean-Luc Colombo to the British Beekeepers Association (BBKA), 10p is contributed to the BBKA for every bottle sold. The white 2013, £11.49, is round, but crisp and lightly floral, and the red 2012, £10.99, medium full with peppery, spicy fruit; both from www.cellarviewines.com. Also good is Colombo's crisp white **Picpoul de Pinet Les Girelles 2013**, £9.99, Oddbins (see overleaf for food pairings).



Dhaniya, which means coriander leaf, is a new line of five rubs and five pastes made in small batches by a couple who grew up in Indian households. I find the rubs most useful, especially the pomegranate (above), but they all give a genuine flavour of India with much less effort than if you assembled and prepared the mixes from scratch. The rubs are £2.99 for 40g jars. The pastes, such as jalfrezi, are £3.69 for a 120g jar, from www.dhaniya.co.uk \square

FOOD with THOUGHT

Caroline Barty suggests delectable dishes that are free from wheat, gluten and dairy products but rich in flavour

PHOTOGRAPHS WILLIAM LINGWOOD | FOOD PREPARATION AND STYLING BRIDGET SARGESON
WINE RECOMMENDATIONS JOANNA SIMON | TABLE STYLING ALEXANDER BREEZE



wineಆfood

Opposite MAIN COURSE MISO-MARINATED BEEF WITH SESAME DRESSING

This page DESSERT PANCAKES WITH BLUEBERRY COMPOTE



Cooking for people with food intolerances can throw even the most accomplished cooks into a blind panic. Yes, it requires a little careful planning and a few specialist ingredients, but most supermarkets and health-food shops are well stocked and the internet can supply the rest. One thing you certainly don't need to compromise on nowadays is flavour. *All recipes serve 6*

FIRST COURSES

ROMANESCO, QUINOA, PINE-NUT AND RAISIN SALAD

This salad is free of dairy and gluten, and is suitable for vegans. You can substitute cauliflower if romanesco is difficult to find.

- 1 head romanesco, about 750g
- 3 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 75g pine nuts
- 160g quinoa
- Grated zest and juice of 1 lemon
- 90g plump raisins
- 2 tablespoons chives, finely chopped

1 Heat the oven to 200°C/fan oven 180°C/mark 6. Cut the romanesco into 1cm-thick slices and arrange in a large roasting tin. Drizzle over the olive oil, then season with salt and freshly ground black pepper. Roast in the oven for 20 minutes, then scatter over the pine nuts and continue to cook for a further 8-10 minutes, or until the nuts have turned a light golden colour. Remove from the oven and leave to cool.

2 Put the quinoa in a large saucepan and toast it over a moderate heat for about 4 minutes, stirring frequently to prevent the grains from burning. Pour into a fine mesh sieve and rinse under cold water. Return the quinoa to the saucepan and pour in 360ml cold water. Bring to the boil, then simmer for 8 minutes (or 10-11 minutes if using red or black quinoa).

3 Turn off the heat, cover the saucepan with a tight-fitting lid or cling film and leave for 15 minutes. The grains should be fluffy and there should be no excess water; if there is, drain through a sieve. Spoon into a mixing bowl and stir in the lemon zest, juice and raisins. Break up the romanesco into small pieces and add to the quinoa with the pine nuts and chives. Season to taste and serve at room temperature.

To drink A crisp, fruity, dry or offdry white, such as Grillo, Fiano or Riesling, or a rosé in a similar style: **Tercius Rosé 2013** from Portugal, £7.99, Marks & Spencer.

CHILLED AVOCADO AND BLACK-GARLIC SOUP WITH TORTILLA CHIPS

Even the avocados labelled as ready-to-eat tend to be rock hard, so buy them a few days in advance and leave to ripen. I buy masa harina - maize flour for making corn tortillas - from Cool Chile Co (www.coolchile.co.uk). It is free of wheat and gluten. Black garlic is an aged garlic that has a mellow, slightly caramelised taste and is available in most supermarkets.

For the chilled avocado soup

- 7 ripe avocados
- 5 cloves black garlic, peeled
- 1 small bunch fresh coriander, plus extra for garnish
- Juice of 2 limes
- 1 litre cold vegetable stock (you can use gluten-free Kallo stock cubes)
- 1/4 teaspoon ground coriander
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1/4 teaspoon Tabasco sauce For the tortillas
- 200g masa harina
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 2-3 tablespoons chilli oil
- 1 tablespoon smoked paprika, plus a pinch for garnish (optional)
- Maldon sea salt
- Handful fresh coriander leaves

1 For the soup, halve 6 of the avocados, remove the stones and scoop the flesh into a food processor. Add the black garlic, coriander and lime juice, and process for a few seconds. Pour in the cooled stock and remaining soup ingredients. Process until smooth. Season with salt and freshly ground black pepper

to taste. Pour into a large bowl, cover and chill for 2-3 hours.

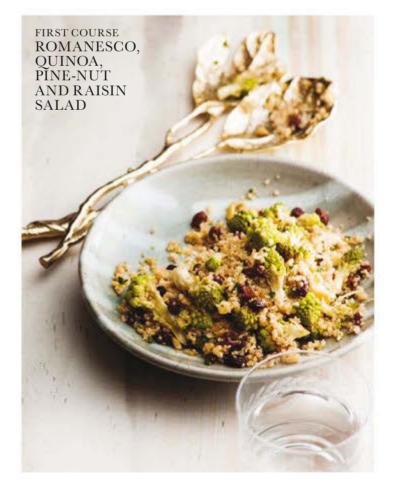
2 For the tortillas, place the masa harina in a mixing bowl with ½ teaspoon salt and the olive oil. Add about 240ml water. Mix together to form a smooth but not sticky dough, adding more water if necessary. Cover and leave for 15 minutes.

3 Divide the dough into 8 even-size pieces. Roll out each one between 2 sheets of cling film to a rough circle about 10.5cm wide and about 2mm thick. Cut out a 10cm round. Collect any leftover dough and stamp out 2 or 3 more tortillas. Heat a frying pan until hot and cook each tortilla for about 30 seconds each side. Cut each tortilla into 4 wedges. **4** Heat the oven to 200°C/fan oven 180°C/mark 6. Arrange the tortilla

wedges on 2 baking trays and drizzle over the chilli oil. Sprinkle over 1 tablespoon smoked paprika and a little Maldon sea salt, and bake for 15-18 minutes until the tortilla chips are starting to turn golden brown. Leave to cool.

5 Just before serving, cut the remaining avocado in half, remove the stone and cut the flesh into small cubes. Spoon the chilled soup into bowls. Scatter over the diced avocado, along with a few fresh coriander leaves and a sprinkling of paprika, if you wish. Serve the tortilla chips on the side.

To drink Zingy Sauvignon Blanc and Gros Manseng are both good with avocado and spicy tortilla chips: Janeil Gros Manseng Sauvignon Blanc 2013, £7.75, Oddbins.





MAIN COURSES

BAKED HAKE WITH SAUCE VIERGE

The flavour of this sauce relies on the quality of the tomatoes, so buy the best and ripest you can find. Taste one before you start - be ready, if necessary, to add a little sugar and white vinegar or lemon iuice to the sauce when you season it. For those on a dairy-, gluten- or wheat-free diet, this is a wonderful, fresh-tasting sauce to accompany fish, shellfish and chicken.

- 1kg ripe vine tomatoes
- 6 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 garlic clove, crushed
- 1 tablespoon capers in vinegar, drained and finely chopped
- 1/2 teaspoon coriander seeds. crushed
- 1 tablespoon finely chopped basil leaves
- 6 fillets of hake (about 175g each) To serve Roasted new potatoes and a green vegetable

1 With a sharp knife, make a cross on the base of each tomato. Place in a large bowl and cover with boiling water. Leave for 40-50 seconds, or until the skin starts to shrink from the flesh, then drain and refresh under cold water. Peel off the skins and guarter the tomatoes. Scoop the cores and seeds into a sieve placed over a mixing bowl. Leave to drain while you cut the tomato flesh into 3-4mm cubes. Transfer to a bowl. Squeeze out as much juice as possible from the contents of the sieve, then discard. Pour the juice over the tomatoes.

2 Stir 5 tablespoons of the olive oil into the tomatoes followed by the garlic, capers, coriander seeds and basil. Season well with salt and freshly ground black pepper, and then leave at room temperature for about 2 hours to allow the flavours to develop.

3 Heat the oven to 200°C/fan oven 180°C/ mark 6. Oil a non-stick baking tray or ovenproof dish with the remaining 1 tablespoon olive oil.

Arrange the hake fillets in the tray or dish and season well. Bake for 12-15 minutes, depending on the thickness of the fillets. Either serve the sauce vierge at room temperature, or gently warm it in a saucepan over a very low heat for 4-5 minutes. To drink A crisp, dry white to complement the vibrant sauce without overwhelming the fish. Mineral styles of Sauvignon Blanc work well. as do Grüner Veltliner, Chablis, Greco and Picpoul de Pinet: Jean-Luc Colombo Les Girelles Picpoul de Pinet 2013, £10, Hennings, (01798-872485) and Oddbins.

MISO-MARINATED BEEF WITH SESAME DRESSING

This dish is dairy and wheat free. For those with a gluten intolerance, buy gluten-free miso paste, tamari, mirin and instant miso soup, such as the brands I've recommended below.

- 5 tablespoons white miso paste (Clearspring)
- 5 tablespoons tamari (Kikkoman)
- 4 tablespoons mirin (Clearspring or Mizkan)
- 1 garlic clove, crushed
- 1.1kg whole fillet of beef
- 1 tablespoon sunflower oil
- 75g toasted sesame seeds
- 2cm piece root ginger, peeled and finely grated
- 150ml miso soup, made from a sachet of instant miso soup (Sanchi)

To serve Stir-fried broccoli with shiitake mushrooms. and rice noodles

1 Mix together the white miso, tamari, mirin and garlic. Place the fillet of beef in a dish and pour over the marinade. Cover and refrigerate for at least 5 hours, turning the beef in the marinade after 2-3 hours. Leave it at room temperature for 30 minutes before cooking.

2 Heat the oven to 200°C/fan oven 180°C/mark 6. Pour the oil into a roasting tin and place over a high heat. Lift the meat out of the marinade and cook for 5 minutes in the hot oil, turning regularly to brown the meat evenly. Cook in the

oven for 25-35 minutes, depending on how thick the fillet is and how rare you like it. Remove from the oven, cover with aluminium foil and leave to rest for 10-15 minutes. 3 Pour the marinade into a saucepan and stir in the sesame seeds, ginger and miso soup. Stir over a low heat to just below boiling point, then pour into a jug. Serve the beef in thin slices, drizzled with the sesame dressing and some stir-fried broccoli and shiitake mushrooms, and rice noodles.

To drink A youthful red wine that isn't too tannic, such as New Zealand Pinot Noir, top Beaujolais, for example Brouilly, Morgon or Fleurie, or an Austrian Zweigelt or Blaufränkisch: Feiler-Artinger Blaufränkisch 2013, £11.29, Waitrose.

DESSERTS

PANCAKES WITH BLUEBERRY COMPOTE

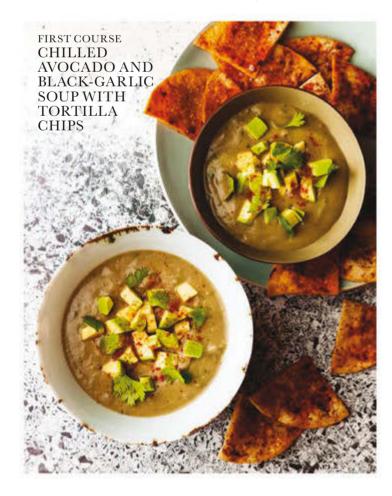
These flours and gluten-free baking powder are available in the Doves Farm range (www.dovesfarm.co.uk). Ironically, buckwheat is not part of the wheat family so it can be tolerated by those on a wheat-free diet.

For the blueberry compote

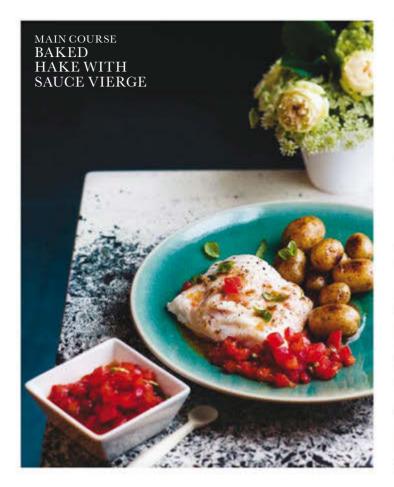
- 675g blueberries
- 175ml maple syrup
- Grated zest of 1/2 orange

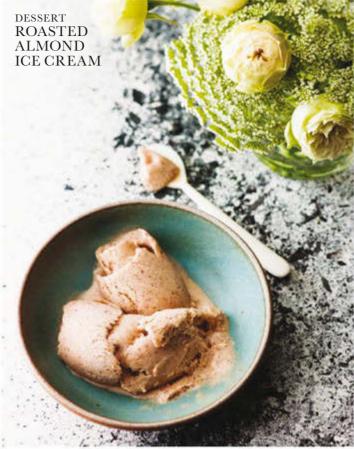
For the pancakes

- 150g gluten-free rice flour
- 130g gluten-free buckwheat flour
- 80g caster sugar
- 2 teaspoons gluten-free baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 400ml almond milk, or rice milk
- 50g soya margarine (e.g. Pure), melted
- 1 large egg, beaten
- 1 tablespoon sunflower oil
- 1 For the compote, place 500g blueberries, the maple syrup and orange zest in a saucepan. Bring to the boil over a moderate heat then turn down the heat and simmer for 3-4 minutes until the blueberries are soft but not mushy. Take off the heat and cool for 10 minutes before stirring in the remaining 175g blueberries. Leave to cool. ⊳



wine&food





2 For the pancakes, place both flours, caster sugar, baking powder and ground cinnamon in a mixing bowl. In a separate bowl or jug, mix together the almond or rice milk, melted margarine and egg. Pour the wet ingredients into the dry ingredients and whisk to a smooth batter. 3 Heat the oven on its lowest setting. Heat a little of the oil in a large frying pan and pour in small ladlefuls of the batter, 3 to 4 at a time. Cook for 2-3 minutes until the surfaces of the pancakes are firming up, then flip over and cook for a further 2 minutes. Transfer to a serving

dish and keep warm in the oven

while you make the rest of the pancakes. You should make about 14-16. Serve with the blueberry compote.

To drink The intensely flavoured blueberry compote needs a sweet wine with good acidity. Try a late-harvest Riesling or Muscat, or this rare California Black Muscat: Elysium 2013, £9.99 for 37.5cl, Majestic.

ROASTED ALMOND ICE CREAM

This is the easiest ice cream to prepare and can be eaten by those with a dairy intolerance and by vegans as there are no eggs in the recipe. The smoothest results come from using an ice-cream maker, but it's no less delicious using a more basic method of freezing and processing to break down the ice crystals. My almond butter of choice is Meridian, available in most supermarkets.

- 500ml unsweetened almond milk
- 400ml tin coconut milk
- 200g golden caster sugar
- 170g jar almond butter
- 1 Place all the ingredients in a saucepan and stir over a low heat to just below boiling point. Take off the heat, cool for 15 minutes, then liquidise until thoroughly blended together. Cool completely before pouring into a freezer container.

Cover and freeze for 6 hours, or until it's firm but not solid.

- **2** Scoop the mixture into a food processor and process for 10 seconds. Pour back into the container and freeze until firm. Repeat the processing, then freeze until hard.
- **3** If you have an ice-cream maker, pour the cooled liquid into the freezing bowl and churn until set. Leave at room temperature for 10 minutes to soften before serving. **To drink** A sweet, rich but zingy wine to cut through the numbing effect of ice cream: **Carlo Pellegrino Passito di Pantelleria 2012**, £10.75 for 37.5cl. Oddbins.

TABLEWARE INFORMATION

Miso beef Bone-china plate, 'Modern Grace', 27cm, £21.95, from Villeroy & Boch. Silk wallcovering (background), 'Travertine' (rhea), £165 a square metre, at Fromental. Chopsticks, from a selection, at John Lewis. Pancakes Porcelain plate, 'Hémisphère', by J L Coquet, 21cm, £47, at The Conran Shop. Tumbler, £6.25, at David Mellor. Romanesco salad Stoneware plate, by James Hake, 24cm, £85, at Contemporary Ceramics Centre. Salad servers, by Michael Aram, £75, at Thomas Goode. Tumbler, 'Webster', £4.95, at India Jane. Background, as before. Soup Porcelain bowl (bottom left), by Akiko Hirai, 14cm, £98, at Contemporary Ceramics Centre. Glazed-terracotta bowl, 12cm, £22; and plate, 20cm, £22; both at Toast. Slate, Jesmonite and wood table, 'Tactility', by Stephanie Tudor, £650, at The New Craftsmen. Hake Stoneware plate, 26cm, £22; and porcelain tumbler (used as vase), £7.50; both at The Conran Shop. Square pot, 8.5cm, £5.50; and bone spoon, £4; both at David Mellor. Table, as before. Ice cream Stoneware bowl, by Tony Gant, 14.5cm, £13, at Contemporary Ceramics Centre. Bone spoon, £4.50, at David Mellor. Table, as before. For suppliers' details, see Stockists page □

SIMPLE SUPPERS

Louisa Carter suggests dishes to put a spring in your step, with a seasonal starter that would work as a vegetarian main, and a quick lamb dish. All recipes serve 6

Braised leeks with goats' cheese and walnuts

If you're serving this as a main course. I recommend doubling the amount and adding a little extra goats' cheese - any soft or crumbly goats' cheese will work. To toast walnuts, cook on a baking tray at 180°C/fan oven 160°C/mark 4 for 5-6 minutes. You can also sprinkle the leeks with the pumpkin-seed crumbs (right) and/or serve with lightly toasted walnut bread.

For the dressing (optional) • 1 tablespoon wine vinegar • 11/2 teaspoons Dijon mustard • 3 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil (or half olive and half walnut oil) For the leeks • 4 medium leeks (500g prepped weight), tough green parts removed, halved lengthways, rinsed thoroughly • 30g butter • 1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil • 3-4 sprigs thyme • 11/2 tablespoons wine vinegar • 150ml chicken or vegetable stock To serve • 100g goats' cheese, crumbled or sliced • 60g toasted walnuts, roughly chopped

- 1 For the optional dressing, whisk the vinegar and mustard together, then whisk in the oil. Set aside.
- 2 Cut the leeks into roughly 8cm lengths and pat dry with kitchen paper. Heat the butter and oil in a large, shallow pan over a medium heat. Add the thyme sprigs and leeks (cut side down) and fry gently for 10 minutes, turning halfway, or until they have some colour. If your pan is small, you may need to do this stage in two batches, or use two frying pans; you can then combine them into one pan for the next step.
- **3** Season with sea salt and freshly ground black pepper, add the vinegar, bubble for a minute, then pour in the stock. Bring to a simmer, cover the pan and reduce heat to low. Cook gently for 20 minutes, or until the leeks are meltingly tender.
- 4 Transfer the leeks to a serving dish or individual plates, leaving any liquid in the pan. If necessary, bubble the residual liquid until reduced to about 1 tablespoon. Stir into the dressing, if using, then drizzle over the leeks (otherwise spoon pan juices directly over the leeks). Scatter with goats' cheese and walnuts.

rosemary crumbs

Scatter these over soups, roast or grilled meat or fish, or roasted vegetables, especially squash try kabocha or crown prince. Heat the oven to 200°C/fan oven 180°C/mark 6. Tear 100g ciabatta into a food processor. Process to coarse crumbs, then add 100g pumpkin seeds, 1 tablespoon chopped rosemary needles and 1 chopped garlic clove. Whizz, add 4 tablespoons olive oil and a pinch of sea salt and whizz briefly. Spread on a baking sheet and bake for 10 minutes, stirring halfway through, until crisp. They will keep in an airtight container for up to 5 days.

Pumpkin seed and Chilli-jam lamb steaks

I've used ready-made chilli jam to keep this main course super quick. Tracklements' is good, or try www.thechillijamman.com. They vary in strength so adjust accordingly. If you can't get chilli jam, use quince, blackberry, or redcurrant jelly with a pinch of dried chilli flakes.

For the chilli-jam lamb steaks • 6 boneless lamb leg steaks (about 175g each) • 3 cloves garlic, halved • 1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil • 4-6 tablespoons chilli jam • Large handful fresh mint leaves, finely chopped To serve • Creamy mashed potato and seasonal greens

1 Heat the oven to its highest setting, 220-230°C/ fan oven 200-210°C/mark 7-8, or the grill to medium-high. Spread out the steaks in a single layer on a large roasting tray or grill pan and rub all over with the cut sides of the garlic halves before scattering them around the lamb. Rub the lamb with olive oil and season with flaked sea salt. In a small bowl, combine the chilli jam and mint.

2 Roast the lamb on the top shelf of the oven, or under the grill, for 6 minutes. Turn the steaks and spread with the chilli jam and mint glaze. Cook for a further 3 minutes. By now the lamb should be cooked slightly pink. Rest for 2 minutes, then serve whole, or carved diagonally into thick slices. Sprinkle with the pumpkin seed and rosemary crumbs (left), if you like □



the III With some of the largest areas of protected wilderness in Africa, Botswana offers a very special safari experience. Staying in a series of luxurious lodges, Lucia van der Post explores the austerely beautiful landscape of the Okavango Delta, both on the ground and from the air THIS PAGE An aerial view of the Okavango Delta. **OPPOSITE CLOCKWISE** FROM TOP RIGHT Sandibe Okavango Safari Lodge's arched reception is made of 350 pieces of timber. Hippos in a lagoon. Poling mekoro canoes down a waterway

Botswana isn't like the rest of Africa. It seems lonelier, vaster, wilder and, for tourists, sadly a lot more expensive. But when you're at AndBeyond's spectacular Sandibe Okavango Safari Lodge, you begin to understand why. Here, right on the edge of Botswana's Okavango Delta and next door to Moremi Game Reserve, nature plays the leading role. Wild palms and old fig trees press right up

against the bedroom windows. They tower over the soaring timber arches of the main lodge and, when the sun goes down, the sea of miscanthus grass that grows in the cool, clear waters of the Okavango river seems to be lit by flames of fire. Behind, out on the golden, grass-covered flood plains and palm-fringed islands, the lion roam and the elephants trumpet. And yet, all this natural glory, with its attendant comforts - the cottages on their stilts with viewing platforms and private pools, the 4x4s, the guides, the cooks, the masseuse, the cleaners - are there

to give just 16 people the holiday of a lifetime.

The other wonderful thing about Botswana is that the Okavango Delta and the austerely beautiful desert have scarcely changed in all the years I've been going there. The lodges are more sophisticated, the food fancier, the hospitality slicker, but the things that matter, the things you've really come to see - the lily-laden lagoons, the hippo-filled canals, the wide skies, the rich and varied fauna - seem blessedly untouched, left to the ebb and flow of nature's seasons.

The government of Botswana has always believed in low-impact, high-value tourism and it shows. Most of the lodges are small: some, such as Great Plains Conservation's Zarafa, take a mere eight people, none in the Delta takes more than 20 and, these days, they all have to be ecofriendly and constructed from natural materials, hence the splendid new lodge at Sandibe. The first camp on this site was designed by a cousin of mine, the South African architect Nick Plewman. Now an old hand at bush design, he loved his first project in the wild but always felt that the original building had been compromised by budget constraints and outside diktats.

This time round he worked with the British architect Alex Michaelis of Michaelis Boyd, and they were able to work more freely. They agreed that the new Sandibe should be 'drawn directly

from nature and be very organic'. Made entirely of timber, it has vast curving arches, wooden floors, a sinuous bar that, like a puzzle, is made from 350 separate pieces of wood. In keeping with the desire to be as eco-friendly as



possible, 70 per cent of the energy the lodge uses comes from alternative sources.

While Sandibe is the latest and certainly the most spectacular of AndBeyond's lodges, its safari experiences are primarily land based - think foot safaris and night-time game drives. There are other lodges for different experiences - for example, a short flight in a small plane brings you to Xaranna and Xudum, both Delta paradises with views of the lagoons and numerous water-based activities. Xaranna and Xudum are small lodges with just nine villas or tents each, as well as individual plunge pools. At Xaranna, there are capacious wood-frame tents, while at Xudum, huge thatched rooms are built up on stilts with rooftop lookouts.

One spectacular afternoon at Xaranna, my 10-year-old grandson, under the expert eyes of the head ranger Max Tidimalo, reeled in numerous tilapia from the watery depths and, on another, Pro Ihamaga - a guide whose ancestors were river bushmen - taught him how to pole a mekoro canoe. Together we floated through the waterways, stopping to swim where the water was low and safe, picnicking on islands or sandbanks surrounded by miles of pristine wilderness. Botswana days don't come much better than this.

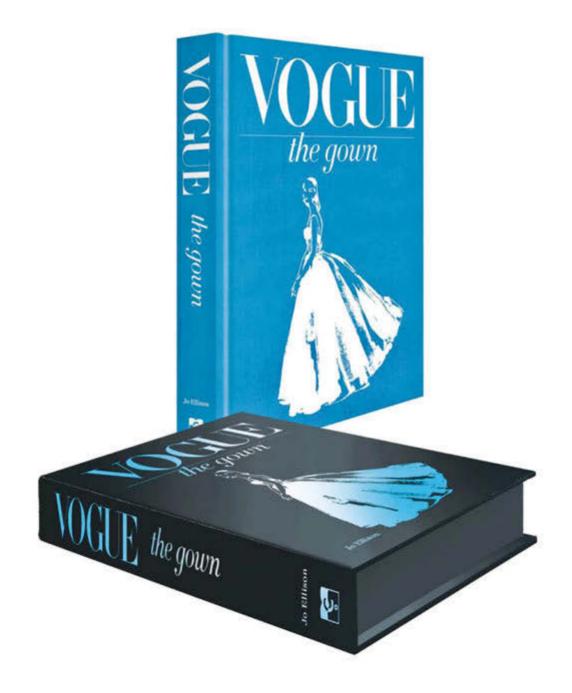
At all AndBeyond lodges, you can now book helicopter trips. It is possible, for instance, to fly to the magical and mysterious Tsodilo Hills to view the Bushmen paintings, or take a scenic trip flying low above the ground, spotting animals and birds as you go, and getting a feel for the geography of this extraordinarily beautiful and varied land. And, for those who consider a rhinoceros sighting the high point of a safari, there can be a rare treat at both Xudum and Xaranna. As part of AndBeyond's conservation efforts, numerous rhinoceroses have been translocated from Phinda

> game reserve in South Africa to give them a safer home in Botswana. The rhino are guarded at all times for obvious reasons, but tracking one on foot is a thrill that is available in few other places. Catch it while you can

WAYS AND MEANS

Lucia van der Post travelled as a guest of The Ultimate Travel Company (020-3582 9558; www.theultimatetravelcompany.co.uk). A week in the Okavango Delta, including two nights at Xaranna, two at Xudum and three at Sandibe, costs from £4,750, full board, including flights and transfers. For more information, visit www.andbeyond.com.

VOGUE the gown



ON SALE NOW

Sophy Roberts visits the sculpted sands, rocky pinnacles and private coves of Belle-Ile-en-Mer, enjoying the scented air, calm wilderness and ocean that once inspired Claude Monet

t is late autumn and chestnuts lie on the ground like sea urchins. In Jardin de la Boulaye, a 22-year-old garden cut out of spongey heath on the Atlantic island of Belle-Ile-en-Mer, honeybees burrow into the last of the flowering English roses, searching for gold. The whitewashed house at the garden's heart sits at the head of a ravine concealing emerald glades and cascading brooks spliced by bamboo allées and ancient slate walls. Beyond La Boulaye's gorse maze I catch a glimpse of the sea and willows bent by Brittany's salt-laden storms. It reminds me of Abbey Garden on Tresco (featured last month in House & Garden), another island that has been shaped by Atlantic

fronts with its sculpted beaches, rocky pinnacles and private coves.

The more time I spend on Belle-Ile, 15 kilometres off France's Morbihan coast, I realise how this gem of an island – some 20 kilometres long and nine kilometres at its widest point, the largest of Brittany's islands – has more than gardens in common with England's Scilly Isles. In winter, the sand is striped with spume; beyond lies the gunmetal ocean, which, in summer softens to a creamy opal green. Low-rise cottages are strung along roads quiet enough for kids to cycle along or for teenagers to hitch-hike their way to Donnant beach, where the dunes are crested with feathered grasses and the air smells sweet from pine.

Belle-Ile's year-round resident population is small - not much more than 5,000 - though in July and August, the numbers inflate by eight times that amount. Visitors come in via the one-hour ferry from the mainland town of Quiberon, which in its turn is just over a two-hour drive from

Nantes or Rennes. They include high-profile French nationals looking for a low-profile lifestyle, who graze in the easy-going bistros on -Ile-en-Mer,
rness
e Monet

BELLE-ILE-EN-MER

FROM TOP The harbour at Sauzon. La Pointe des Poulains, at the northern tip of Belle-Ile. The rocky shore of Plage de Donnant

galettes de blé noir (buckwheat crepes), spider crabs, or the local goose-neck barnacles. They sit and drink Brittany cider as the kids go rock pooling in Sauzon harbour when the tide has withdrawn.

We stay on the Côte Sauvage, at Le Grand Large hotel, where we feast on sweet langoustines for dinner, and unctuous salt-meadow lamb. From our bedroom in the eaves, we have views of the rocky outcrops Claude Monet painted. 'I am in a superb wilderness,' he wrote in 1886, 'a pile of formidable rocks and an improbably coloured sea.'

Monet wasn't the only artistic visitor to be seduced by Belle-Ile. Other acolytes included Gustave Flaubert, who visited in 1847, and Sarah Bernhardt, who in 1894 purchased the former military fort at La Pointe des Poulains, where she lived for the last 30 years of her life. The great one-legged actress – aged 71, she chose amputation over a sore knee – would be transported about Belle-Ile on a custom-made sedan chair. We do the opposite and can't

keep still, hiking and biking, and writing down numbers for surfing and diving, which we plan to use when we return en famille next year \square

WAYS AND MEANS

Sophy Roberts travelled as a guest of Belle-Ile tourism (www. belleileenmer.co.uk) and Brittany Tourism (www.brittanytourism. com). She stayed at Le Grand Large (www.hotelgrandlarge.com), where double rooms cost from €75. Visits to Jardin de la Boulaye are by appointment only (00-33-297 317 609).

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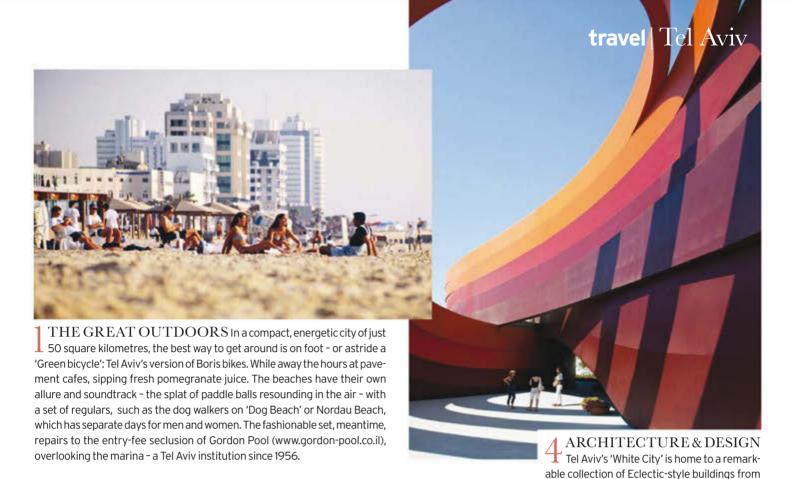
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CITY HEAT

Israel may often be in the news, yet the wide-ranging attractions of Tel Aviv for travellers are often overlooked. Teresa Levonian Cole picks five reasons to visit

 $FOOD\ \&\ DRINK$ The city has blossomed into a veritable foodie destination.

From humble hummus restaurants - such as Jaffa's famous Ali Karavan - to sushi shacks on Rothschild Boulevard, luscious fruit stalls in Carmel Market and trendy eateries at the redeveloped Tel Aviv Port, variety abounds. Try a traditional breakfast of beans in the cobbled streets of the Yemenite Quarter, where grandmothers serve up homely fare. At Dallal (www.dallal.info), in arty Neve Tzedek, taste one of the world's best burgers with caramelised onions, fried egg and truffle mousse, on brioche, followed by cocktails and snacks at Rothschild 12 (www.rothschild12.co.il), haunt of musicians and writers. And for something inspirational, head to Popina (www.popina.co.il): from the beetroot margarita with coriander and ginger, to the steamed cheesecake with pistachio and yuzu - it's all heaven.

THE BULLET FACTORY Now a historic museum concealed beneath the laundry of a former kibbutz (communal settlement), this underground factory (eng.shimur.org/Ayalon-institute/) secretly manufactured millions of bullets between 1945 and 1948, under the nose of the British for use in the War of Independence. The story, brilliantly brought to life by young guides, is a testament to human determination and ingenuity - from the smuggling of machinery from Poland, to the installation of sun lamps, to tan the clandestine workers who were supposedly toiling in the fields. It's a unique experience - and, we are assured, not one bullet from this factory was fired against the British, who had become both friends and dupes of the crypto-kibbutzniks.

HOTEL In the sweltering summer months, what better than a refreshing sea breeze and views over the seemingly limitless Mediterranean coastline from a suite at Royal Beach Hotel (www.isrotel. com)? This cool new addition to the city's seafront hotels brings boutique ethos to a full-service hotel and an extraordinarily large, open-air swimming pool on the fourth floor. It is perfect for those seeking a central location - and serves what has to be one of the best breakfasts in all Tel Aviv

Shabazi Street will reveal.

the Twenties, its architecture evolving a decade later into the more restrained and functional Bauhaus style - of which there are some 4,000 examples. The twenty-first century, meantime, has seen the arrival of 'starchitects' such as Ron Arad, whose ribbon-

like Design Museum (www.dmh.org.il), inspired

by the sand dunes, is a spiralling orange beacon

for cutting-edge exhibitions. Flair for design

filters into every area - as the boutiques of



flights.

VILLA HOLIDAYS

Laura Houldsworth selects property specialists for luxurious getaways for all the family



ROOMS WITH A VIEW

C V Villas specialises in family-friendly holidays, with over 700 properties scattered throughout the Mediterranean boasting picture-perfect views, seafront locations or infinity pools. Extra services, such as a private chef, speedboat hire and housekeeping, are also available. Pictured above is Masseria delle Palme, set in five acres of olive groves in Puglia, Italy, which sleeps up to 10 guests and is available to rent from £1,707 a week. *O20-7563 7902; www.cvvillas.com*

SOMETHING TO CELEBRATE

A party organiser, travel concierge and villa-rental agency rolled into one, Unique Properties & Events will arrange celebrations abroad – from a family gathering around a villa pool to a wedding party in Venice – and create bespoke holidays, with an on-the-ground presence. Villa Chigi in Tuscany, pictured below, is one of the beautiful Italian properties available to rent from £26,308 a week, including all meals and housekeeping for 24 guests. 020-7788 7815; www.uniquepropertiesandevents.com





CULTURAL ESCAPES

A & K Villas offers holiday rentals in France, Greece, Portugal, Spain, Italy and the UK, all hand picked for their location, be they in prime holiday hotspots or off the beaten track. A & K Villas can also organise activities ranging from a drive through the Chianti hills in a classic car to sailing along the Côte d'Azur in a private yacht or wine tasting in Tuscany. Al Castello, a ninebedroom Medici villa in Tuscany pictured above, is available to rent through A & K Villas from £7,322 a week. 0845-618 2205; www.akvillas.com

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PACKING LIST



SUN LOTIONS
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SPF30', £25.50, and
'Bronze After-Sun Balm
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Dior. www.dior.com

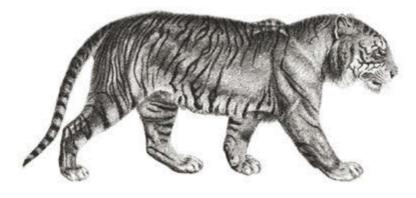


COTTON BEACH BAG 'Milo', £25, at Heal's. www.heals.co.uk



CALF-LEATHER CURRENCY CASE

£125, at William & Son. www.williamandson.com



TIGER. Panthera tigris. FACING EXTINCTION.

Nature needs big cats, and big cats need big spaces

Everywhere that big cats are found they are at the top of their food chains. They are ancient predators essential to the balance of their environments. Without them, the biodynamic orders of the areas they have dominated for thousands of years would collapse, leaving us with a natural world bleaker and less varied than ever before.

All of the world's big cats – from cheetahs to jaguars and pumas – are now under threat. Development and the swell of human populations in previously wild areas is robbing these animals of their habitats and the wilderness of its dignity. In many of these environments, these increasingly rare animals are still hunted for body parts and sport, too.

At the World Land Trust, we are working with 29 organisations in 22 countries to enable local communities to buy and save parcels of land for permanent conservation, and to work with local communities to find ways for them to live in harmony alongside big cats.

We urgently need to raise £500,000 to preserve the most important remaining big cat habitats. Nature as we know it is disappearing and the only time we have to save it is now.

For more information go to www.worldlandtrust.org

"The money that is given to the World Land Trust, in my estimation, has more effect on the wild world than almost anything I can think of."

— Sir David Attenborough, Patron, World Land Trust









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FAMILY TRAVEL

Combining child-friendly hotels, inspiring kids' clubs and outdoor activities worldwide, this dedicated section features innovative ideas for families



Paradise bound

With a stunning location and plenty of things to do, Sani Resort on the Kassandra peninsula in Greece is a holiday destination that's perfect for all the family

n a private nature reserve on the Greek Kassandra peninsula, surrounded by olive groves, pine forests and miles of sweeping, sandy beaches, lies Sani Resort. Built nearly 30 years ago, it has remained a family business with a welcoming atmosphere that makes it perfect for children and teenagers, as well as their parents.

The resort is made up of a cluster of five-star hotels, each of the four with its own character. Sani Beach Club — a group of charming, luxuriously furnished bungalows—is known as 'the family hotel' of the group. It has an on-site crèche, which is run by UK-trained childcare specialists and caters for babies and toddlers from four months to four years old.

Children aged four to 11 will love the Melissa mini club, which has all manner of exciting activities, from pool games and parties to mini Olympic games. The Teenagers Club, meanwhile, is designed to keep 12 to 17 year olds amused, offering hip-hop dance classes, a football academy, mountain biking and archery.

While the kids are off having fun, it leaves



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT Bousoulas beach. The adult pool at Porto Sani Village. A junior suite at Sani Beach Club. Family fun by the beach at Sani Resort

parents free to explore the resort's many grownup delights. Relax in one of three luxurious spas or two indoor pools, lay beachside and indulge in some sunbathing, or take advantage of the many activities on offer, from scuba diving to paddleboard yoga, sailing and romantic sunset cruises where you can see Mount Olympus – the highest mountain in the country – shimmering across the clear blue sea.

As Sani has six private beaches, it offers ample opportunity to enjoy the sun, sea and vast stretches of fine white sand. Families staying in the Porto Sani Village have the exclusive use of the 'Sea You beach', where children can play in the shallow water with Sani's complimentary beach toys.

Fine dining is also on the menu: the resort boasts a number of excellent restaurants that offer everything from modern Greek cuisine and French seafood dishes to Asian fusion and sushi. If you crave a bit of culture, there are live performances at the Garden Theatre. Sani even organises two festivals each year: The Sani Festival celebrates the performing arts while Sani Gourmet, which runs for two weeks in May, revels in culinary excellence. Culture, charm and child friendly: the resort is truly something special \square









• GRECIAN BEAUTY

An elegant hotel in Mykonos proves a good choice for families with a wide age-range of children

ykonos and Ibiza may go hand in hand as the party islands of the Mediterranean but a touch of hedonism need not exclude those who fancy a more sedate holiday. Both destinations, in fact, are rather a good choice for families with a wide age-range of children – older teenagers in search of late nights, loud music and a party vibe will be as happy as the younger crowd who like nothing more than paddling all day in warm sea followed by an early tuck-up.

A villa might seem the obvious accommodation option but, in Mykonos, the Grace hotel is an excellent alternative. Teenagers will love the cool, pared-down predominantly white design, as well as the mini-van service that shuttles guests to and from the razzmatazz of Mykonos Town and the fact that breakfast is available all day; the bucket-and-spade brigade will love it

that sandy Agios Stefanos beach is a mere 100 metres away and that the hotel has a cunning arrangement with one of the tavernas to provide complimentary deck beds and umbrellas. Grace Mykonos is a compact masterclass in space management with a small pool, small

ABOVE FROM LEFT The pool and daybeds. The view from a suite (top). Plunge pool in a suite (below). Poolside restaurant. All at Grace Mykonos.

Family suites are available from €450 per night, including daily Champagne breakfast. The season dates for 2015 are April 24 to October 17. 00-30-22890 20000; www.gracehotels.com spa and small dining area – all stylishly fashioned. First impressions suggest that this is a chic, grown-up hotel, yet it truly welcomes children.

Of the 31 rooms in total there are two dedicated family suites each with two bedrooms (No 45 has its own pool) while the Mykonos Suite can be interlinked with a classic double, also to make two bedrooms. All rooms face the sea and have either a balcony or terrace.

Car hire on the island isn't essential unless you want to be out and about exploring every day. Otherwise the concierge can arrange numerous excursions from island tours and boat trips to trekking and riding. This year also sees the launch of a new 'Grace kids' programme to be rolled out at Grace Mykonos and its sister properties, The Vanderbilt Grace on Rhode Island and Grace Cafayate in Argentina. Three to 11 year olds will be showered with gifts and lavishly enter-

tained with cooking and pastry classes, painting and picnicking and much more besides. A particularly nice touch is the offer of monogrammed bathrobes and pillows, which parents can order for their children as a lasting memento of the holiday \Box

GREECE IS THE WORD

Easy to get to from the UK, with beautiful beaches, clean waters and delicious food, Greece is a haven for families with young children. Perched on the Vassilikos peninsula, on the island of Zakynthos, **Periyali villas** (www.simpsontravel.com) are spread across three acres of mature gardens. While younger children are entertained in the crèche or kids' club (open to children aged from six months to 10 years



old), parents can explore secluded coves or relax by their own private pool. The sandy beach at Gerakas is only a short stroll away. In May, **Ikos Olivia** (www. ikosresorts.com) will open its doors in Halkidiki. From pedalos to pilates, mountain biking to massages (in the new Anne Semonin spa, no less), stretching classes to snorkelling, there will be plenty to tempt the whole family. Plus, UK-based Worldwide Kids Company will run a kids' club daily from 10am until 6pm.



of Rosewood Resorts and boasts suites, villas and estate homes that are suitable for families of all sizes and stages. This elegent property is all-inclusive (even Champagne is complimentary when ordered by the glass) and an everythingtaken-care-of attitude pervades throughout. All the kit needed for tennis, croquet, snorkelling, paddle boarding and much more besides is provided. The resort's bicycles and golf carts can be used to explore the palm-fringed trails that lead to three white-sand beaches. Between Easter and June, when foliage is in full bloom, is a good time to go, or wait until July and August and hope to glimpse the nesting Hawksbill turtles. Carrier offers seven nights from £12,195* per family of three, all-inclusive, including flights and private transfers. 01614-921354; www.carrier.co.uk

AN AFTERNOON IN WONDERLAND

Celebrate the 150th anniversary of Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland* at The Dorchester's annual Mad Hatter's Afternoon Tea this October. With entertainment by the English National Ballet School's young dancers, The Mad Hatter, the March Hare, the Dormouse and Alice herself will be pirouetting, plié-ing and jeté-ing between the tables of The Promenade. The afternoon tea includes a selection of *Alice in Wonderland* themed cakes, as well as savoury finger sandwiches,

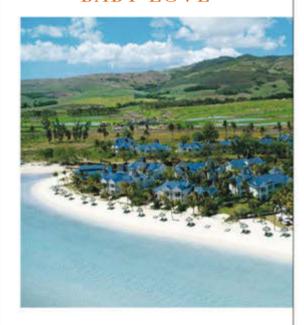
scones and pastries. Book now
for October 26 – 30. Sittings
are 2.15pm and 4.45pm:
it costs £55 per adult
(including a glass of
Champagne) and £30
for children aged 5–11.
020-7629 8888; www.
dorchestercollection.com

ALL KINDS OF MAGIC



Walt Disney World Florida is top of many children's travel wish lists. Now luxury resort Four Seasons has opened its doors minutes from all the attractions. Boasting the largest hotel rooms in Orlando, a sumptuous spa and Capa - a seventeenthfloor Spanish steakhouse with panoramic views of the Magic Kingdom Park fireworks - there is plenty on offer for parents too. Plus, guests can benefit from fast-track access to many rides thanks to the on-site Disney Planning Centre. From £327, room only; www.fourseasons. com/orlando

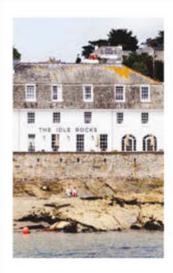
BABY LOVE



Adding to an already impressive menu of facilities for families, Heritage Le Telfair (pictured) opened Timomo Baby in February, a complimentary childcare service that caters for tiny tots up to the age of two. The first of its kind in Mauritius, the baby club is open daily and run by trained infant nurses meaning parents of the resort's youngest guests can now enjoy a round of golf or a trip to the Seven Colours spa village, confident their treasure is being well looked after.

Turquoise Holidays offers seven nights' half board from £4,059 per family of four including flights and transfers. 01494-678400; www.turquoiseholidays.co.uk





GO FISH

Families staying at the boutique hotel The Idle Rocks in St Mawes can take to the Cornish sea with local fisherman James Brown to learn about the fun and art of sea fishing. Budding anglers will then return to the hotel for tea, crumpets and crab racing on the waterfront terrace before spending the afternoon preparing their catch with head chef Mark Apsey, for a three-course dinner. The 'Father and Son' package is available from March 1 to June 30. It costs £,450 including two nights at The Idle Rocks, B&B, excursions and dinner, www.idlerocks.com



INTO THE WILD

While adults staying at the Kichwa Tembo tented camp in Kenya enjoy twice-daily game drives and river cruises, children aged six and over can explore the Maasai Mara under the guidance of the camp's own Maasai team. As part of the WILDchild programme, young guests receive a backpack containing everything they might need for fishing trips, scavenger hunts and shortened game drives. Kichwa Tembo reopened last July after a complete rebuild and now comprises 40 spacious tents, including three new family suites. The area is home to dense populations of the big five game animals and the camp is well positioned for the annual wildebeest migration, which takes place between July and October. A three-night stay at AndBeyond's Kichwa Tembo

A three-night stay at AndBeyond's Kichwa Tembo tented camp starts from £2,785 based on a family of four sharing, including meals, two safari activities per day and transfers to and from the lodge airstrip. www.andbeyond.com

VIP ACCESS

Behold the majesty of Michelangelo's masterpiece without the crowds. With the Family Traditions at St Regis programme guests staying at St Regis Rome can enjoy a private tour of the Sistine Chapel and Saint Peter's Basilica, including areas typically closed to the public.

'The Vatican' package costs €2,585, B&B, for a family of four including tours and transfers. www.stregis.com/familytraditions



SET SAIL

Chartering a gulet is the perfect way to explore the Aegean coastline. Belvedere Travel's fleet of traditionally built Turkish yachts can accomodate between six and 16 people. Its experienced crew know all the best places to go. Throughout the April to October season, daily itineraries are agreed between guests and the captain. Prices from £4,000 per week. From April 27, British Airways will offer four direct flights per week from Gatwick to Dalaman. www.belvederetravel.com







hose who regularly hanker for sunnier climes are turning to Simpson Exclusive - the even-more-selective-than-usual branch of Simpson Travel. And it's the illustrious villas that are the stars of the show. With over 150 years' combined experience, the expert team has travelled the globe, carefully selecting the planet's most desirable properties in enticing destinations, many of which are exclusive to their books. Every last detail is inspected to ensure it meets the Simpson standard (think: five star, super slick and sun drenched and you are right in the Simpson heartland). Holiday destinations encompass

everything from Côte d'Azur châteaux with verdant valley vistas, to seven-bed villas in Kassiopi and Caribbean gems in Barbados, Antigua, Grenada and Mauritius.

IN THE KNOW

Where Simpson Exclusive really excels is in its first-hand knowledge of its properties and destinations. Anchored by a star UK-based sales team, who have personally visited each property, you will receive trustworthy advice from the word go. They are also happy to help you get to each destination with ease by arranging flights, transfers and car hire. Plus, there are representatives in every country who are well equipped with local knowledge while the UK concierge service works tirelessly to sort out any

trips and spa treatments.



add-ons you might desire, from an in-villa chef to day

IN THE DETAIL

All Simpson Exclusive villas come complete with everything you would expect to find in a five-star hotel -Wi-Fi, crisp linen, fluffy towels - but it's the extras such as welcome hampers, Champagne and warm greetings that are the telling differences. The repeat business - 50 per cent annually - speaks for itself. This has prompted the launch of an invitation-only Loyalty Club treating guests to preview products, luxury offers and cashback deals on each holiday booked. Put up your feet and enter a world of balmy days spent reclining on high-thread-count sun loungers – without lifting a finger □





across the Indian Ocean. While each property exudes elegance and charm, don't be fooled into thinking these are child-free zones. Children of all ages are welcomed with open arms and its the little details that really set these properties apart. From little slippers and robes in the rooms, to child-friendly menus and activities, both parents and children will be delighted. If you and your brood need to relax, head to the island escape of Constance Halaveli in the Maldives, where there are spas for both adults and children. To reconnect with nature, head to Constance Lémuria or Constance Ephélia in the Seychelles to watch turtles hatch on the beaches or zip line through the rainforest. For spacious villas, a host of thrilling water activities and complimentary green fees, hop on a plane to Constance Belle Mare Plage in Mauritus.

The perfect family holiday comes in many shapes and forms. Time is precious, so it is important to get it right at first go. Whatever it is that you and your family are looking for in a holiday, one thing is certain: parents and children of all ages won't want for anything at Constance Hotels with Turquoise Holidays.

To request a Turquoise family brochure, or enquire about a tailormade Constance family holiday, call 01494-678400 or email enquiries@ turquoiseholidays.co.uk. For more information and holiday inspiration visit www.turquoiseholidays.co.uk or pop into the beach house-inspired shop on the Northcote Road in Battersea

Q&A WITH JAMES BELL

Marketing director and co-founder of Turquoise Holidays, and proud dad

What was your most memorable childhood holiday? My father owned a travel agency so every summer we went somewhere different in Europe. My earliest memories are of burning-hot sand in Mykonos and nearly being left behind while talking to a pelican.

Where do you travel with your children? My daughter, Sophie, loves Mauritius, where she learnt to swim. My son, Angus, is desperate to go on a safari to see a cheetah so we are planning that for 2016.

What are your top tips for flying with children? Take a night flight anywhere long haul. Be prepared: take plenty of games, books and things to keep them amused. We travel in economy but pay for lounge access before departure. We always arrange a private car on arrival (a service Turquoise always offers). Involve the family in the planning process.

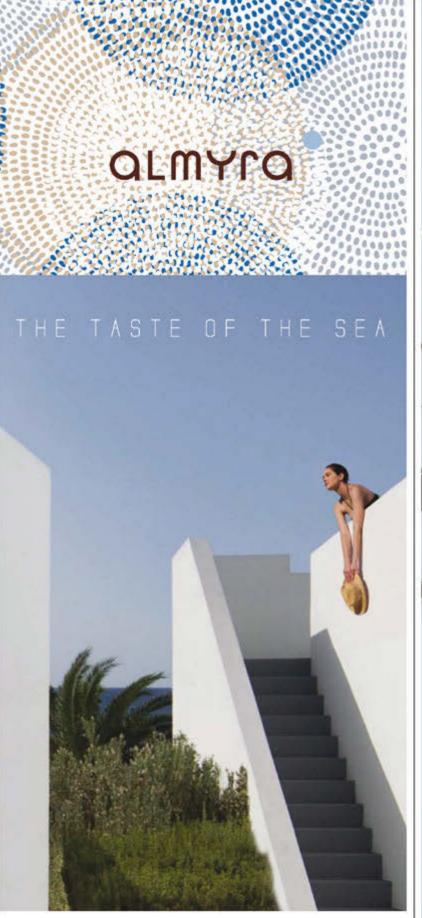
What do you never travel without? My wife.

What are the core values of Turquoise that set you apart?

The simple answer is we really do care about our clients, their children and their holidays. An amazing amount of effort goes into getting it right.

What is next for Turquoise?

California, India and Burma are all on the radar but only when we are ready and can offer clients exceptional service, great advice and real value





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• THE FAMILY LINE

The scenic landscape and rich cultural heritage of Dubrovnik provide a bounty of activities for a family of three generations

et against the azure of the Adriatic Sea, amongst rocky coves and pine-fringed beaches, the UNESCO World Heritage Site listed Old Town of Dubrovnik is a beguiling place. Imbued with a rich and varied history, the town anchors the bustling tourist industry of modernday Croatia, with visitors flocking during summer months to walk the two-kilometre length of the city walls, swim in the clear, blue water and sample regional delicacies, including tasty local wine.

Just 11 kilometres outside the city sits Sun Gardens, a 54-acre destination resort on the Dubrovnik Riviera. It's big — with 201 rooms and 207 residences in the five-star Radisson Blu Resort & Spa — and is set amid mature gardens of olive, pine and citrus trees and oleander bushes. From a central promenade that links the hotel with the residences, and boasts panoramic views of the Adriatic and Elafiti islands, guests can access most of the resort's extensive facilities. The Market features fresh food from around the world, including Asian, American and Arabic, while other family friendly facilities include a spa, three outdoor swimming pools (there is also an indoor pool in the spa), and a sports centre complete with a gym, tennis courts, squash courts, a climbing wall and a new Scott Dunn Explorers Children's Club.

I was confident that my 15-month-old daughter, Poppy, would enjoy her time at the Explorers Club, but what I hadn't anticipated was how much I, and my mother who

was travelling with us, would appreciate it. The staff are qualified childcare experts and it shows. Poppy settled in quickly on her first day, entertained with toys and tempted by a plate of Fiona Faulkner-devised food. Peeking in from outside, I was initially miffed that I had been replaced so quickly by a plate of spaghetti 'squashanaise', but I consoled myself with an afternoon in the spa. Regular texts from her primary carer kept any niggling anxieties



ABOVE FROM LEFT Old Town of Dubrovnik. The view from the residences at Sun Gardens (top). Children at the Explorers Club (bottom). A Deluxe Room. INSET Poppy and Louisa

GETTING THERE

Scott Dunn (020-8682 5040; www.scottdunn.com) offers seven nights, B&B, in a two-bedroom, sea-view residence from £1,460pp, including flights and transfers. Six days at the Explorers Club (the club is closed on Saturdays) is priced at £300 for children aged two or under, and £252 for children aged three and over.

at bay and the hours passed in a happy blur of swimming, snoozing and slurping on freshly squeezed juices.

With Poppy happily enrolled in the Globetrotters programme (suitable for children from four months to two years of age), my mother and I were able to explore the hotel and its surrounding area. I will forever cherish the image of mum laughing joyously as our speedboat driver whizzed us over to the idyllic island of Šipan for lunch at Hotel Šipan – well worth a visit. I loved listening to stories of her adventures, backpacking around Europe with my aunt in the Seventies, while we enjoyed a guided tour of the Old Town. Poring over intricate lace souvenirs, sipping cups of coffee and people watching felt particularly spoiling after months of sleepless nights endured since my daughter arrived. Every day we returned from our adventures excited about reuniting with Poppy to enjoy a sunset stroll or a visit to the playground. At the end of our stay we were presented with a diary - including photographs and drawings - of Poppy's time in Dubrovnik. Combine this with the pictures we took of our days exploring and the result is a treasured family album of happy memories.

SMART SWIMWEAR

Stylish and practical, Sunuva's extensive range of sunprotective swimwear is a must for beach-bound young travellers. Sunuva has been awarded the British Skin Foundation's stamp of approval, a first for any children's swimwear brand. Made from UPF 50+ fabric, products block out more than 97 per cent of the sun's harmful rays. **Pictured** 'Girl's

Sunglasses Rash Vest', from £39. www.sunuva.







• WILD AT HEART •

Budding conservationists of all ages can embrace the great outdoors during a weekend stay at a rural Suffolk retreat

or our family, more used to the tame countryside of Gloucestershire or Hampshire, rural Suffolk was the great unknown. We were pleasantly surprised to discover Wilderness Reserve, a vast ecological restoration project and idyllic family retreat set within a 1,000-hectare private country estate. Each of the six properties in the charming collection of manors, farmhouses and country cottages is available to hire on an exclusive-use basis. Nature is at the heart of everything they do at Wilderness and, thanks to consistent conservation efforts over the last 20 years, the estate is becoming a haven for local wildlife.

We went with our three young daughters and new dog, Pepper, to spend the weekend at Sibton Park, part of the Manor collection at Wilderness. The beautiful and understated Grade II-listed Georgian country house sleeps 24 and is fully serviced with daily housekeeping, a chef, butler and waiting staff. Chef Matthew Appleton treated us to regional produce, simply and deftly prepared, from Lowestoft cheeses to locally sourced cod.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT Allegra, Daphne and Ava with a local ornithologist. The Grade II-listed Georgian country house at Sibton Park. Pepper on the grounds. INSET Daphne at the park

GETTING THERE
All properties are available
on an exclusive-use-only
basis. Prices for Sibton
Park start from £2,500 per
night. 020-7484 5700;
www.wildernessreserve.com

Getting to Wilderness couldn't have been easier: leaving London by train at 5pm, we were at Sibton Park by 7pm. The girls enjoyed the adventure of the train ride, and we loved not having to sit in Friday rush-hour traffic out of London. Plus, without a car, we focused our attentions on the estate and what it had to offer. Seeing 'moth breakfast' on the itinerary did have me wondering whether we would be eating them. In fact, the moths had been collected overnight from the grounds – a selection from the 450 species living on the estate – and were presented at breakfast in big containers for the children to marvel at. There are 2,500 species of moth in the UK, so our haul was positive proof that the reforestation and replanting at Wilderness is encouraging the wildlife.

Over the course of just two days, we witnessed the transformation of our very urban daughters into mini conservationists. A walk through the parkland surrounding Sibton, led by a local ornithologist, had the girls mimicking birdsong and taking pride in spotting species such as barn owls and reed warblers. We toured the grounds in four-wheel drives, across bumpy, winding tracks which skirt the tree-planting projects, and had hot chocolate and Victoria sponge from the

back of the estate manager's Land Rover. Even Pepper seemed to revert to her wilder instincts, enjoying the thrill of chasing rabbits into their burrows; though when the chase proved fruitless, she was only too happy to pilfer from Sibton's well-appointed kitchen table.

Wilderness is not about turned-down sheets and a chocolate on the pillow at night – it's far more grounded. The hosts want you to appreciate the beauty of the surroundings, and nature is never more than a few moments away. The perfect antidote to city life, it will leave you hankering for more $\hfill\Box$

DREAM TEAM

Award-winning travel company Original Travel has joined forces with children's party people Sharky & George. For tips on the perfect family friendly destinations to making transfers fun, the pair aim to improve every step in the travel process. Plus, every child receives a personalised pack of fun activities (pictured here).

020-7978 7333; www.originaltravel.co.uk



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Lacquered wood, 'Peso Side Table' (cayenne), 65 x 71cm diameter, £5,130, from Holly Hunt. For further inspiration, see 'Decorator's notebook'

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Bloomsbury Garden fabric £140/metre. For more information visit

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- 2. Trying to find that distinctive piece to make your nest remarkable?
 LESSER SPOTTED discover one-off, rare, antique and limited edition furniture and accessories or if you have something particular in mind they also offer a complimentary "Spotted for You" service to find what you have been looking for. Shown is the Juliet Travers "Safari Fabric" Visit www.lesser-spotted.co.uk or call 01283 319003 for more information.
- 3. IAN SANDERSON creates unique fabric collections from their design studio in West Berkshire. The Oleander collection was inspired by an original 19th Century print and reproduced in 7 colour stories with a harmonious and eclectic mix of woven designs and textures. Of particular note is the Nerium Shadow Tissue, a warp printed fabric. This forgotten printing technique popular in the early 1900's and these specialist skills have been recently rediscovered. You can contact Ian Sanderson at www.iansanderson.co.uk or call 01635 33188 to find out more.
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- www.timorousbeasties.com email london@timorousbeasties.com or call 020 7833 5010.

 6. BORDERLINE FABRICS is offering this beautiful Almere fabric. To see more of the collection visit studio 013, World's End Studios, 132–134 Lots Road, London SW10 0RJ. Call 0207 349 7196 or visit www.borderlinefabrics.com for more information.
- 7. COLOGNE & COTTON has been at the forefront of beautifully designed pure cotton bed and bath linen for 25 years. Discover simple checks and stripes and classic white embroidery together with fabulous fragrances and luxury bath products. Visit their shops, call 0845 262 2212 for a catalogue or view www.cologneandcotton.com to find out more.
- 8. FELT's unique collection of rugs, floor cushions and cushions are handmade by the nomadic peoples of Kyrgyzstan. From dazzling and bright to elegant and subtle, they suit both traditional and contemporary interiors. Viewing by appointment in London SW12. Call 020 8772 0358 or visit www.feltrugs.co.uk to find out more.
- Designer RACHEL REYNOLDS' interior Heritage Collection is a range of luxury fabrics, wallpapers and accessories. Bespoke drawings and patterns are created by hand and composed digitally. Architecture, memorabilia and nature feature within the collection. Visit www.rachel-reynolds.co.uk or call 023 8077 2962 for more information.
- 10. KATE FORMAN specialises in beautiful printed linens and wallpapers as well as handmade accessories such as lampshades, cushions, boxfiles and luggage bags. Visit www.kateforman.co.uk for more details or call 01962 732244.
- 11. NADINE ROSE offers a range of ethical and often exclusive products personally chosen by Nadine for their contemporary appeal and the quality of their craftsmanship. Sourcing from countries such as Ethiopia, Afghanistan, Nepal, Turkey and Oman, Nadine's products include organic cotton towels, cushions, ceramics, silk scarves and Himalayan shawls. To view the exquisite range, visit www.nadinerose.co.uk or call 01788 536471.

HE LUXUNES ... Spring treats for all!



Laura B











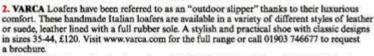




1. THE WATCH AGENCY specialise in buying and selling new,

specialise in ouying and setting new, ex display and pre owned watches by the world's leading watchmakers, including Rolex, Cartier, Patek Philippe, and Jueger Le Coultre. All jewellery also

available at large discounts. Pictured is a Ladies 18ct Gold Rolex Datejust on President Bracelet with Diamond set Bezel Dial, Lugs and Bracelet. New £38,200. As new £9,995. With prices starting from under half of retail, ensure that you speak to one of their watch and jewellery experts to get the best for less. Call 01702 395100 or visit www.watchagency.co.uk for more information.



- 3. DE SIENA shoe collection is made up of 100% Made in Italy luxury high heels, platforms and pumps. With a stylish and sophisticated feel, they are perfect for any outfit or occasion. The SS15 collection has been created for women that know the power of their femininity. Visit www.desienashoes.com email customerservice@desienashoes.com or call 0041 79 77 29 849
- 4. PONY MALONEY. If you know someone that loves ponies, you'll love Pony Maloney! They produce a range of gorgeous gifts for pony mad girls including cotton pyjamas, tops and t-shirts as well as great backpacks, washbags, pencil cases and more, all printed with a beautiful pony. Perfect presents, gift wrap service and free UK delivery too. Visit www.ponymaloney.com or call 01825 872600. Enter H&GAPR10 at the checkout for a special 10% discount! Offer ends 31st May 2015.
- 5. LAURA B has been created for the woman who is after an ideal solution of excellent cut, unusual fabrics and the sense of exclusivity only usually available in the couture salons of Paris. Situated in a quiet cul-de-sac just off Knightsbridge, visit their chic showroom that echos a sitting room and relaxed atmosphere at 8 Yeoman's Row, Knightsbridge, London, SW3 2AH. For more information, visit www.laurab.com call 020 7851 4123 or email laura@laurabcouture.com
- 6. DIANA PORTER CONTEMPORARY JEWELLERY. British jewellery designer, Diana Porter, specialises in beautifully handcrafted, unique pieces. Diana works to commission, creating one off designs, hand etching customers own words onto the jewellery and re-working clients existing pieces. Call 0117 909 0225, email web@dianaporter.co.uk or visit www.dianaporter.co.uk for more information.
- 7. TUTTABANKEM offer a range of elegant silk velvet and cruising cotton kaftans, tops and cotton nighties - the perfect gift for yourself or your loved one. Visit them at www.tuttabankem.com or call for a free catalogue on 01572 717332.
- 8. Style never goes out of fashion COBRA & BELLAMY is the leading name in classically designed watches, retro in style reminiscent of the 1930s, 40s and 50s. Pictured here is the

Cobra watch available in Stainless Steel at £99, Rose Gold plated and 21 Carat Gold Plated at £115. Sienna Miller has chosen to eschew more established watch companies to fly the flag for Cobra & Bellamy's retro inspired watch collection, here is a quote from her "Cobra & Bellamy watches are classic, beautiful and affordable, I love all of them". To see the whole Cobra & Bellamy watch collection, go to www.cobrabellamywatches.co.uk or call 01736 732112 for further information.

9. This useful, stylish and versatile towel by HAMMAMAS is super absorbent, easy to pack, quick drying and lightweight. It can be used as a swim towel, sarong, beach dress, wrap or searf. The perfect holiday and travel companion and luxury gift. Quote 'HOUSE' for 10% off and free shipping, expires 31/07/2015. Visit www.hammamas.com or call 01580 714714 for more information.

- 10. DU MAURIER WATCHES. Diamonds, rose gold and mother of pearl take centre stage on this stunning, 'Rebecca' ladies watch. Designed by English talent Ned du Maurier Browning, Daphne du Maurier's grandson, this fabulous, Swiss-made, limited edition timepiece will add elegance and a bit of sparkle to every occasion. Rebecca ladies watch, £485. See the full collection at www.dumaurierwatches.com or call 0845 519 3074 for more
- 11. ENIA PEARLS offer a unique and bespoke collection of necklaces and pearl earrings. Pearls continue to be the most sought-after precious gems in history. Their unusual settings are designed to be timeless classics pieces that will endure for generations to come. The shapes and sizes of their pearls will amaze you; the exceptional settings are captivating and will stand out whenever they are worn. The perfect gift for yourself or your loved one. To register for any upcoming events visit www.eniapearls.com or contact Lina 07979 655850.
- PRETTY ECCENTRIC "I love spending time with you." Vintage Watch Movement Cufflinks. Jewelled watch movements from the 1920s-1950s. Backed with vintage leather and mounted as cufflinks. Presented in vintage inspired box. £49 – By Pretty Eccentric. Visit www. prettyeccentric.co.uk or call 07870 607925 for more information.
- 13. BLUE VELVET is the home of contemporary and classic footwear direct from the heart of Europe. Always one step ahead, they have established themselves on their quality and first-rate service. Visit them at 174 Kings Road, SW3 4UP or call 020 7376 7442. Buy online at www.bluevelvetshoes.com
- 14. Designer jeweller LIZ TYLER delights in creating individual pieces always with a sense of movement in the flow of the design. Liz does regular exhibitions across the country and will be exhibiting at RHS Garden Wisley with CRAFT In Focus, near Woking, Surrey on the 30th April-4th May. Visit www.liztyler.com or contact Liz on 01258 820222.
- 15. The perfect match for double cuffs, British jewellery designer HEATHER STOWELL incorporates beautiful vintage mother of pearl buttons into handmade settings using Sterling Silver or Rose Gold transforming them into contemporary unique cufflinks and one-off ladies jewellery. Email info@heatherstowell.com follow her on Facebook or call 07801 570068 to leave a message. Heather will be showing new work at the British Design Centre from the 18th-22nd March, see her website for more information. For email orders, small online shop and event dates in your area, visit www.heatherstowell.com

Inspirational Interiors... Make your house a home!

1. CHLOE ALBERRY specialises in door knobs for the home. English made door handles inspired by the game of pool. Shop: 84 Portobello rd, London W11. call 020 7727 0707 or visit www.chloealberry.com

2.VILLAVERDE creates

handcrafted lighting, made in Italy for interiors throughout the world. The Lloyd murano chandelier designed by Claudio Marco for Villaverde is available in various sizes and murano colours. They also offer a lighting consultancy service, enquire at their London showroom - 618-620 Kings road, London SW6 2DU, call 020 7610 9797 or visit their website www.villaverdeltd.com to find out more



3. BRABIN & FITZ have a beautiful

collection of lighting, furniture and mirrors. In addition many of their designs can have dimensions or finishes altered and bespoke commissions are undertaken. Visit www.brabinandfitz.co.uk or call 01244 314838.

4. SKANDIDESIGN - London based, contemporary brand that promises original prints influenced by Scandinavian design. Visit www.skandidesign.com email info@skandidesign.com or call 07970 962291 to find out more.

5. PETER STERN FURNITURE DESIGN was formed by Peter Stern, a London based architect and designer who specialises in creating distinctive, high-end, contemporary furniture. With an eclectic, post-modern approach to design he combines unconventional materials, shapes and palettes to create colourful furniture that is engineered and manufactured in the UK All items are made to order and customisation is possible. Call 020 8346 2547 or mobile 07957 424946, email furniture@peterstern.co.uk or visit www.petersternfurnituredesign.co.uk

6, THE DINING CHAIR COMPANY is dedicated to producing the highest quality dining chairs at competitive prices. Their chairs are made to order with your own choice of wood, fabric and trim. They offer a bespoke service, creating original designs where required. To find out more, visit www.diningchair.co.uk or contact on 020 7259 0422.

7. LITTLE FRENCHIE creates pet inspired homeware with contemporary designs for the modern home, including British made cushions, prints, bags, mugs and tea towels. In addition Little Frenchie uniquely offers a pet photography and design service to turn your own pet portraits into exclusive homeware and gifts. Pictured is the printed "Travellers" cushion, size 45x45cm £30 H&G reader offer 10% discount apply code HG10 at the online checkout www.littlefrenchie.co.uk Contact mail@littlefrenchie.co.uk Stockist - Fenwick Canterbury, canterbury.enquiries@fenwick.co.uk

8. HAND & EYE STUDIO. Nominated for a design award, the new Updown ceramic and glass pendant by Hand & Eye Studio combines ambient and directional light. Visit www.handandeyestudio.co.uk and quote HG-01 for free shipping in the UK or call 02085220587 for more infomation.

9. JANE HAMILTON, portrait and figure sculptor. Her sculptures have energy and pathos; when doing a portrait, whether young or old, she approaches her work with the sensitivity and truthfulness needed for a likeness. To see more of Jane's work, visit www.janehamilton-sculpture.com or call 01295 750636.

10. KOMAL MADAR is a young, vibrant emerging British artist based in London. Her featured painting La Petite Mort (The Little Death) is just one example of her unique style and striking pieces of work. More paintings and limited edition prints can be found at www.komalmadar.com email Komal@komalmadar.com or call 07985 290775.

11. ON REFLECTION MIRRORS offer a wide selection of beautiful, original, antique and vintage mirrors, including many Venetian mirrors, which you can see at www.antiquemirrors.co.uk They regularly exhibit at the Battersea Decorative Fair, London, or to see all available stock, visit their showroom any time on the Somerset/Dorset border. Open by appointment only. Call 01963 220723 or email info@on-reflection.co.uk

12. MILLBROOK BEDS It's your best kept secret in the bedroom. Traditionally handmade in the UK for almost 70 years, Millbrook Beds are made to order using only the finest, locally-sourced, natural materials to offer the ultimate in sleep luxury. Visit www.millbrook-beds.co.uk email enquiry@millbrookbeds.co.uk or call 0845 373 1111 for more infomation.













Inspirational Interiors... continued







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13. HGR IMPORTS. Unique Indian antique camphor wood trunks. 25" to 40" antique and new trunks available. Visit www.hgrimports.com, email chris@hgrimports.com or call 0844 8546366 to find out more.

14. TINDLE. This intricate 16 arm chandelier from Tindle (CL211-16) is shown in gold and features clear and black crystal drops. It can be supplied in white metal and with the pictured black and gold lined shades, other shade styles or without shades. Also

available in six and eight arm versions it is shown here with 16 arms, which is 68cm high and 120cm wide. List price is £2,998.43 +VAT. Find out more at www.tindle-lighting.co.uk or call 020 7384 1485.

15. THE DOUGLAS WATSON STUDIO offers high quality handmade and hand painted tiles using traditional techniques and a wide range of glazes, colours and styles, from historical and classical sources to original and contemporary designs. Panels and installations, for kitchens, bathrooms and fireplaces, are custom made for each client. For more information, call 01491 629960 or visit www.douglaswatsonstudio.co.uk

16. HOWARD CHAIRS are internationally renowned as makers of beautiful upholstered furniture. Each piece is painstakingly hand-sprung and stitched in their own workshop, using traditional methods and the best raw materials. Established in 1825, the fine attention-to-detail and craftsmanship will last for generations. Clients can select from their collection or they can make to your own specification. They also provide a soft furnishings service including drapes and walling. Call 020 7482 2156 or visit their showroom at 30-31 Lyme Street, London NW1 0EE. View their website at www.howardchairs.com or email info@howardchairs.com

17. CRYSTAL CORNER. Antique Chandeliers, 9A Westhorpe Road, Marlow, SL7 1LB (by appointment). They specialise in large, good quality antique chandeliers and wall lights. Their warehouse is 45 minutes from London or they can bring chandeliers to your premises to try in situ. Email karen@crystal-corner.co.uk visit www.crystal-corner.co.uk or call 01628 488868/07721 518815 to find out more.

18. ALEXANDER & PEARL's online boutique offers a range on industrial chic and modern furniture and lighting. Whether you are looking for a statement piece or stunning lights to illuminate your home, they have pieces to suit stylish tastes. Pictured is the fabulous rustic ladder shelf unit, £220. Visit www.alexanderandpearl.co.uk email mail@alexanderandpearl.co.uk or call 020 8508 0411 for more information.

19. VANESSA CONYERS' luxurious ceramics are handmade in Dorset using vintage lace and lashings of gold lustre. Her signature Secret Garden collection depicts a world of charm and nostalgia, where timid deer frolic beneath giant flowers and an iridescent sky. Visit www.vanessaconyers.com or call 01258 455232 for more information.

20. For lamps to fall in love with, look no further than POOKY. Not only have the Pooky people designed a collection of lamps that are beautiful and affordable, but thanks to the rather clever Pooky Picker on their website, you can mix and match any lamp with any shade then view your creation on screen before buying. Genius! Pooky lamps are available in resin, wood, metal, ceramic and glass – and they all come with brass fittings and a twisted flex. Visit www.pooky.com email hello@pooky.com or call 020 7351 3003.



21. ARTIQUEA offers a fine selection of Syrian inlaid mother-of-pearl furniture, eco-friendly recycled mouth-blown glass grape lights; they also showcase contemporary painters from the Middle East. Find them at 82 Wandsworth Bridge Road, London SW6 2TF. Visit the website www.artiquea.co.uk or call 020 7731 2090. 10% discount on all stock (furniture and lights).

22. British manufacturer COUCH has an exclusive range of 13 contemporary sofa designs. Customers can choose to have

their sofa made from a variety of fabrics such as wool, linen and distressed leather and, because Couch cuts out the middleman, prices are round 50% lower than you would find on the high street. Delivery is free to most parts of the UK mainland and takes just four weeks. Visit www.couch.co.uk to see the full range or call 01495 717170 to get the Couch catalogue. Pictured is the Florence sofa at £995.

23. LA LUNA C offer a of wonderful array of exclusive homeware and gifts. Their porcelain designs are inspired by mother nature. All functional pieces are microwave, dishwasher and oven safe. Visit www.lunaporcelain.co.uk for stockists.







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- 24. LOVELITTER aims to resurrect the relics of everyday life to bring delight once again. Their South London arch houses 20th Century vintage furniture and design, including this French industrial hospital bedside cabinet (£150). Visit www.lovelitter.co.uk email sales@lovelitter.co.uk or call 07450 997997 to find out more.
- 25. ADAM WILLIAMS DESIGN patinated bronze furniture. Featured is this stunning Greenwich console table, available in a variety of finishes. Offered in bespoke dimensions, their tables would be a desirable acquisition to either traditional or contemporary interiors. Call 01749 830505, email info@adamwilliamsdesign.co.uk or visit www.adamwilliamsdesign.co.uk to view the complete collection.

26. RUG STORE specialise in a wide selection of new, old and antique Persian, Turkish, Caucasian and Turkman carpets. Various antique, old and new kilims are available. They also offer a professional hand-cleaning and restoration service. They buy old and antique carpets – even damaged rugs. Part-exchange and evaluations. Visit 312 Upper Richmond Road West, East Sheen, London SW14 7JN. Call/fax 020 8876 0070, email info@rugstoreonline.co.uk

27. BLUE ISLE. Unusual and striking table lamps in gunmetal grey and pale washed wood, from Blue Isle's online collection of furniture, lighting and accessories. Simple weathered oak tables and beds, luxurious, crisp buttoned sofa, and reclaimed wood and metal tables. Timeless style and affordable luxury. Lamps from £75. To find out more, visit www.blueisle.co.uk or call 01425 653031.

28. London 's stockist for Clearview Stoves—DEFRA approved for Smoke Control areas—THE FOREST BAILIFF offer an excellent service—assisting you from site survey to the final installation by experienced Hetas approved installers. All fireside accessories and logs available too. Visit

www.forestbailiff.co.uk or call 020 8947 5115 for more infomation.

29. HARVEY BROWN. design and manufacture bespoke furniture specialising in leather armchairs and sofas. The Paris chair, inspired by one of their restoration projects, is upholstered using natural fillings and hand stained leather to recreate an original 1920's patina. Their

workshop undertakes individual commissions, working closely with clients throughout the process. Call 01621 860772 or visit www.harveybrown.co.uk for more information.

30. REVIVAL BEDS – All beds are handmade by a team of dedicated craftsmen in their workshops. There are 19 bed designs in the collection, including sleigh beds and four poster beds, which are available up to 8ft wide. Free delivery and installation is included. Find out more at www.revivalbeds.co.uk, or call 01777 869669.

31. DEVOL KITCHENS have been making classic English furniture for 25 years and offer a free design service. deVOL have three kitchen ranges; Real Shaker kitchens are simple and affordable, Classic English kitchens are bespoke Georgian designs

and the retro Air range evokes 20th century design classics. All furniture is made in their workshop in Leicestershire and can be seen at deVOL's beautiful Cotes Mill showrooms in a renovated watermill and their brand new showroom in Clerkenwell, London. Visit www.devolkichens.co.uk or call 01509 261000 for more information..

32. QING ART specialises in antique and custom built furniture from selected designers. Contemporary lighting and ceramics are available at their showroom in Margate. Visit www.qingart.co.uk email enquiry@qingart.co.uk or call 01843 299055 for more information.

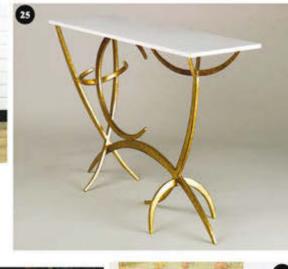
33. OLLERTON RUGS & CARPETS. Rugs, runners and carpets that make a statement in your home. Traditional or Contemporary. A nationwide service built on over 25yrs experience supplying wool and natural carpets, bespoke rugs and stair runners. For free samples and further details, visit www.ollertonrugsandcarpets.co.uk or contact them on 01565 755376.

34. ART REBELLION proudly presents Mini car furniture. Single/double seaters, Mini bars, Mini beds and Mini theatres created by award winning UK artist George Ioannou. For their extensive range of furniture and artworks, visit www.artrebellion.co.uk or call 020 8668 0007 to find out more.

35. SOFA WORKSHOP handmake the most beautiful sofas, right here in the UK. Visit their website www.sofaworkshop.com or one of their shops. For more information, call free 0800 2300048.















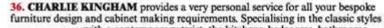








Inspirational Interiors... continued



with a contemporary twist, the kitchens, bedrooms, bathrooms, studies and libraries he creates are all "Made in England". A visit to their website www.charliekingham.co.uk or the central London showroom will certainly show you a great deal more of

what he has to offer, or you can reach him on 020 7935 2255 or email contact@charliekingham.co.uk

37. SOFA.COM offer beautiful and comfortable sofas, beds and chairs that are exceptionally well-made at reasonable prices. Choose from their range of wonderful house fabrics or have something made in a fabric of your choice. For more information and for reader offers, call 0345 400 2222, go to www.sofa.com/house or visit their Chelsea showroom. Pictured is the Bluebell three seat sofa in dusty rose cotton matt velvet, from £1,240.

38. HARLEY & LOLA specialise in providing beautiful, highquality, environmentally friendly furniture and home wares. Bring the sunshine into your home with the fabulous Explorer range of furniture. Created from lightly stained and brushed reclaimed mango wood, these quirky pieces will add an instant splash of colour. Go to www.harleyandlola.co.uk to get 10% off using the discount code House3 until 30/06/15call 03300883696 for more infomation.

39. HOMES OF ELEGANCE has been specialising in authentic vintage and contemporary home furnishings for over 50 years. Their Abergavenny showroom is filled with fascinating finds and statement pieces, it is definitely worth a visit. Browse their collection online at www.homesofelegance.co.uk or call 01873 854173 for more information.

40. BLOMSTER DESIGNS are stockists of Scandinavian
Homeware & Gifts. They stock over 700 items from 18
different Scandinavian designers, including these beautiful
Danish Songbirds from Kay Bojesen. They also stock
pieces by Georg Jensen, Skagerak and Rosendahl. Use the
code: HOUSEAPRIL to get 20% off. Visit
www.blomsterdesigns.co.uk to view the rest of their
stunning collection.

41. RECLECTIC hand-spraypaints historic patterns onto vintage furniture, like this William Morris design, giving the pieces a contemporary twist. Visit www.reclectic.com or email tamara@reclectic.com See them at their Pop-Up Store, March 5th-15th at InHouse, 67 Redchurch St, London, E2 7DJ and at Grand Designs Live, 2nd-10th May, London Excel.

2. BALMAIN AND BALMAIN are makers of upholstered sofas, chairs, armchairs and stools that specialise in unusual and bespoke pieces. Each piece is handmade to order by craftsmen using the best skills and materials. The sofas and chairs can be seen at their showroom near Hungerford in the Wiltshire Downs or by visiting the website www.balmainandbalmain.com Call Balmain and Balmain on 01672 870414 for more information.

43. TRADING BOUNDARIES. Their showrooms are full to the brim of beautiful furniture, architectural pieces, artefacts and textiles. Don't miss the opportunity to view and purchase the latest collection. Situated in the heart of Sussex, Trading Boundaries is an Aladdin's cave for interior design, with over 10,000 sq ft of showrooms and a café, plus courtyard boutique shopping too, all

set in a Grade II listed Georgian manor house and grounds. To find out more, visit www.tradingboundaries.com or call 01825 790200.

44. OLD BOOT SOFAS,

individually English handmade leather sofas. Vintage styling without compromise, extremely comfy, super soft leathers and

generous sizes, find out more at www.oldbootsofas.com or call 020 7736 3738

45. SWOON EDITIONS. From artisan workshops direct to your doorstep, discover new designs every day without the inflated price tag at SWOON EDITIONS. Like the handsome Windsor armchair, with its fine-weave Oatmeal linen upholstery, scrolled arms and delicate piping, it marries 19th century English design with relaxed, refined comfort – just £399, usually £744 in high-end retailers. Readers also save £25 on orders over £250 with voucher code HOUSE73. To order, go to www.swooneditions.com/house73 or call 020 3137 2464, quoting HOUSE73. Expires 02.04.15.

46. LEATHER CHAIRS OF BATH is celebrating 25 years as a family run business specialising in English handmade leather sofas and chairs. Visit their showroom at 600 King's Road, London SW6, or see what they do at www.leatherchairs.co.uk Call 020 7731 1198 to find out more.









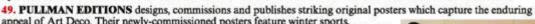


47. CHAPEL STREET LONDON have introduced a new collection of beautifully handmade banquette style seating. Available on short lead times and priced per metre, these can be made to your exact requirements. A fine example of one of these designs is the deep buttoned banquette (pictured). View the new range on

www.chapelstreetlondon.com or call them on 020 8576 6644 for all enquiries.

48. MELLOW DUCK upholstered pods come in 7 shapes and can be used as seats, tables, pouffes or footstools. Fabrics include dappled wool, luxurious "suede" and bright "leather" as well as stripes and plaids. They can also make





appeal of Art Deco. Their newly-commissioned posters feature winter sports, glamorous resorts around the world, and the world's greatest historic automobiles. All £395 each. Call 020 7730 0547 or view and buy online at www.pullmaneditions.com

50. PATRICK IRELAND MIRRORS design and manufacture beautiful hand finished framed mirrors in their East Sussex workshops. The circular De La Warr art deco inspired mirror, finished in brass, is an example of their versatility. Round, oval and shaped mirror frames can all be made to their customers specifications, using bevelled, convex or antique mirrors as required. This is just one of their innovative designs featured in their online framed mirror catalogue. To see more, visit www.patrickirelandmirrors.com call 01435 81315, or email pi@pimirrors.com

51. GLAZEBROOK & CO. create quintessentially British silver and stainless steel cutlery to the highest quality. This delightful range is Old English mirror finish stainless steel with cream handled knives (dishwasher safe). Set for six at £300. To investigate, visit www.glazebrook.com or call 020 7731 7135.

52. MODECOR. Huge £225 discount on the reproduction of the 1956 Charles Eames Lounge Chair and Ottoman. Usually priced at £775, readers can grab a deal just for £550. Visit www.modecor.co.uk for full range/colours. To claim your offer, visit www.modecor.co.uk email wsales@modecor.co.uk or call 020 3239 3902 and use code HOME7 before 15/05/15 (or while stock lasts). Next day delivery for UK mainland.

53. Give your living space an elegant new look with a beautifully bespoke sofa or chair from MULTIYORK.
With over 50 styles to choose from, each piece is hand-crafted by hand in Norfolk and is available in 1000's of fabrics including designer ranges with High-Street fashion brand Monsoon, Osborne & Little and Nina Campbell as well as Multiyork's in-house Studio Collection. Call 0845 303 7134 or visit www. multiyork.co.uk to find out more.

54. W SITCH & CO. Working in the trade since
1776, the Sitch family moved to their current premises in the
1870s from where they continue to specialise in the
reproduction and renovation of antique lighting, be it the
repair, rewiring or renovation of your own light fitting, or by
offering you one from their selection of thousands of
antiques or one of their reproductions which are made on the
premises following traditional techniques. For further
information, visit them at 48 Berwick Street, London
W1F 8JD, call 020 7437 3776, or browse www.wsitch.co.uk

55. THE CORNISH CHAIR COMPANY present their stunning

Lobster Pot Chair. The Truro based company's 25-legged chair, made from kiln dried

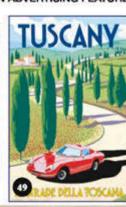
American black walnut, represents an innovative approach to furniture design and aims not to merely occupy a position and cubic capacity within a space, but also to interact with and make a wider impact upon that space. To find out more, visit www.thecornishchaircompany.com or call 01726 884428.

56. SALISBURY ANTIQUES present a pair of oak Gothic throne chairs with hand dyed leather seats. Attributed to AWN Pugin. Circa 1840. For more information, visit www.salisburyantiquescentre.com or call 01722 410634.

57. DEEDEE BANKS DESIGNS. Interior Architecture, Interior Design, Build and Technologies. They have some of the best professionals the industry has to offer today. They believe in the adherence to tight budgets and schedules which help to guarantee the success of every project they undertake. For a free no obligation meeting with their designers, call 020 3086 7879 or 07950 295232, email Dd@ddbanks.com or visit www.ddbanks.com

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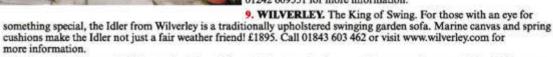
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12. Established over 40 years ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE has a worldwide reputation for providing antique and fine reproduction garden ornament to discerning professional and private clients alike. Through their fantastic new website, or showcased in the galleries and grounds of Taddington Manor, their inventory includes an extensive collection of garden ornament, statuary, fountains, planters, urns, seats, obelisks, wellheads, sundials, gates, troughs and



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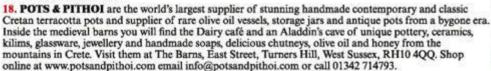
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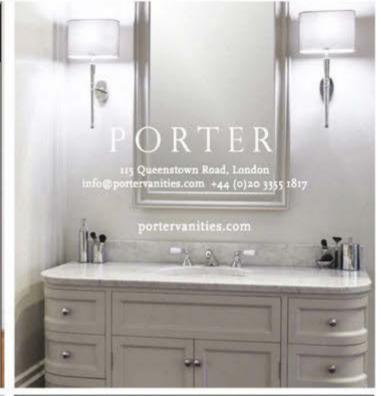
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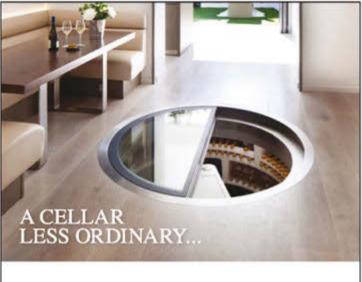
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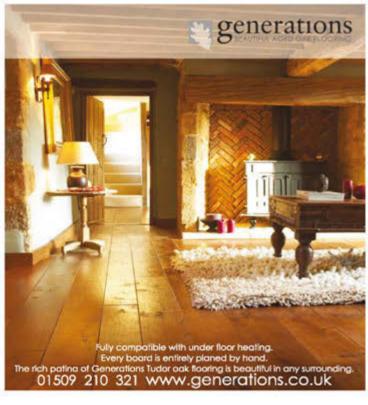
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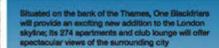




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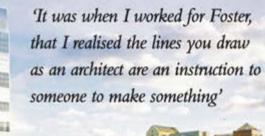
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NORTHERN STAR

He may be Manchester's golden boy, but Ian Simpson has not been tempted to jump on the 'starchitectural' bandwagon. However, as One Blackfriars emerges from the ground this month, the modest Mancunian should prepare to see his name in lights. Claire Pilton reports

ity the careers master who advised
Ian Simpson to lower his sights and
settle for working as a draughtsman in
one of the local factories. 'I wanted to
become an architect from the age of twelve.
I was good at art, but had no wish to be an artist.
I was looking for something less ephemeral, more
constructive; something that was not a purely
personal odyssey.' Ian is adamant: 'architects have
a responsibility to society. Buildings should be as
beautiful as possible and, in the process, engage
with and contribute to the quality and legibility
of their surroundings.'

Enter St George's One Blackfriars, which occupies an extraordinarily dynamic site where you have the moving water of the river and the movement of the road. This building could not be static. There is a fluidity to its form that rises up and which, at its most slender profile, orientates itself to the City and St Paul's. You couldn't put that design anywhere else in the world.'

After 18 months' work on the foundations and basement, the superstructure is nudging above ground. When complete (first residents are expected to move in from 2018), the 50-storey landmark will stand 170 metres tall. "The UK's perception of skyscrapers is very different to that of New World countries where they start at 300 metres. Our only true contender is the Shard (310 metres). It had to be big to be elegant."

"The Shard's long gestation period is indicative of London's historic resistance to tall buildings; namely anything over 20 storeys. We recently co-sponsored a New London Architecture exhibition that reported 236 such buildings in the pipeline which, if all completed, will have a significant impact on the skyline, streets and public spaces." 'If' is the operative word. "The planning process is much more sensitive in the capital compared to post-industrial cities in the north where architects have been celebrated for creating something special. In a city the size of Manchester, an individual can make a difference."

Ian speaks with experience. Having graduated from Liverpool polytechnic and 'learnt the



mechanics of buildings at Foster's then-small office,' he and fellow architect Rachel Haugh cofounded their practice in 1987. To facilitate this, Rachel ran the office while Ian took a teaching job at Manchester University. 'Architecture is not a young person's game. You have to demonstrate your ability to be commissioned. It's a chicken and egg scenario unless you are lucky with a competition. In the early Nineties, our practice was one of several invited to shape a regeneration framework for Manchester. After the bomb struck in 1996, we won the competition to master plan the city centre.'

Subsequent newbuild projects included No 1 Deansgate, Urbis, Shudehill Interchange and the 49-storey Beetham Hilton Tower (where Ian resides in the penthouse). The practice is also known for working with existing buildings such as Grade II*-listed Manchester Museum; UCL, where they created a new mechanical engineering department and lecture theatre under a Grade I-listed building; and Trinity College, Cambridge, where they designed a student facility/bar with historic buildings behind, and the Grade I-listed Fellows Parlour.

In 2003 the practice made its residential debut in London with the Jam Factory in Southwark. A decade later, Simpson would see his designs for the first phase of Battersea Power Station begin to take shape; Circus West, which will feature 5.6 miles of winter gardens, was 75 per cent reserved within one week of launching off-plan in January 2013.

'Battersea allowed us to lift our heads up after the recession and look ahead. Our team of 110 is divided between the Manchester and London offices whose commissions include schemes in Westminster and in Canary Wharf where Dollar Bay is due for completion in 2017.' Not surprisingly, One Blackfriars ranks as their 'most challenging and complex project to date'. The tower's slender raking volume minimises its footprint and maximises the extent of public realm at this mixed-use development, which will incorporate a retail/leisure building, 162-key hotel and landscaped plaza. The tower will provide 274 apartments complete with a spectacular club lounge on level 32 behind

a 'double-skin façade'. The outer shell is a completely transparent glass surface; the inner skin is the thermal line and contains insulated solid panels together with double-glazed sliding screens and panels. The zone between varies in depth and will provide residents with private winter gardens.

For Ian, 'the ability to sit back and look out is one of the qualities of city living'. His own 12,500 square foot duplex penthouse has inspired the 'pentuplex' at One Blackfriars that will span 14,700 square foot over three floors with a further 2,600 square foot of sky gardens on the two storeys above. Ian rates 'being able to have lunch outside pretty much all year round', in what he describes as 'an oasis. A sanctuary that is full of light, where you can see the weather moving around you; where you can retreat and decompress in a very strong urban environment, but are constantly animated by, and only thirty seconds away from, the city below.'

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Savills Country Department is perfectly placed to provide vendors with local, London and international buyers. Claire Pilton reports

'Uncovering buyers who have not walked down the virtual or village high street is our forte,' says Lindsay Cuthill, who heads Savills Country Department from the company's global headquarters in London. His team of 28 offers a different approach that clients deem 'a breath of fresh air to the country market'.

"The best thing we can do for a seller is to give buyers a really good service. Those who hail from London are likely to be either weekenders or families who are upping sticks and changing schools; invariably the latter want to know what they can afford to buy in the country before they start looking for a property. On asking one of our 32 London offices to value their existing home, they probably mention relocating further afield, at which point the London team refers them to us. Essentially we hear about that thought of moving out on the very day a potential country-house buyer asks what their London home is worth.'

The Department's global connections are equally impressive. 'We sit alongside the Russian, Chinese and International desks which oversee and co-ordinate a network of over 600 offices and associates across the Americas, Continental Europe, Asia Pacific, Africa and the Middle East. Lindsay cites a call from the Savills office in Portugal, 'whose client needed help looking to buy in Oxfordshire. Their budget was in excess of £6 million.'

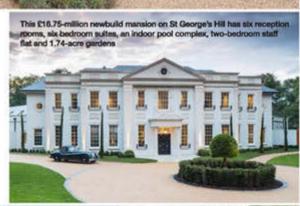
The Country Department sells property in what Lindsay calls the 'substantial' price range. 'The higher the value of the property, the more meaningful the proportion of buyers are from Western Europe, North America, Eastern Europe and China. That said, many of



Formerly occupied by King Charles II and by Handel, Grade I-listed Malmesbury House in Salisbury, Wiltshire, is on the open market for the first time in 600 years. With nine bedrooms, an annexe, orangery and large garden, it flutters a 63.95-million quide order.



'When it comes to buying a house in the country, it is usually as much an emotional purchase as a financial decision'





our international buyers are not price or area specific; for them, everything revolves around acquiring the "right" house.

Transaction levels over the last three years bode well for what, in an election year, may prove a more hesitant and challenging market. 'We have a clash with the traditional top end of the country-house market's launch and we will probably incur a slow down some six weeks before – but the market will continue,' says Lindsay, 'If people were that worried, they would have turned the lights out and left the country last year; instead we saw frantic activity

induced by December's Stamp Duty reforms. House prices may well dip initially after a proposed mansion tax, but they are equally likely to even out in years to come. You don't buy a house in the country with a two-year view; you wouldn't even appreciate the full cycle of your garden in that time.'

Over the next five years, Savills Research anticipates growth of 19.6 per cent for the prime country-house market, assuming mansion tax is introduced this year; that increase rises to 23.9 per cent assuming no mansion tax, but with a revision of

the current council-tax system.

In Britain, we believe in 'the strength of property as a long-term investment, but when it comes to buying a house in the country, it is usually as much an emotional purchase as a financial decision.' To that end, Savills Country Department offers clients a bespoke, boutique service with the backing of a global network that celebrates its 160th anniversary this year.

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With over 40 years of investment to its credit, Quinta do Lago (00-351-289 390 700) has saved the best until last with the release of San Lorenzo North. Bordered by the Algarve's Ria Formosa Nature Reserve, the 26 villa plots enjoy views across the San Lorenzo golf course and towards the Atlantic Ocean. Purchasers can build up to 25 per cent of their plots (compared with 20 per cent elsewhere on the resort) to a contemporary architectural design, as demonstrated by the show villa. This modern, pared-down look signals a new era at Quinta, where the average buyer age group has dropped ten years (to 45-55) since 2011. During that time €25,000,000 has been invested in the resort, with a further €21,000,000 allocated

over the next five years. Interestingly, two of the three British buyers at San Lorenzo North already own property within the 650-acre resort, where facilities include three championship golf courses, a tennis centre, water sports on the lake and two-mile beach, four hotels and eight restaurants. Plot prices range from €2,500,000 to €3,200,000, with building costs circa €2,000 per square metre. For those who can't wait, the €5,900,000 turnkey show villa offers 535 square metres of five-bedroom accommodation complete with a home spa, gym, games room and cinema; outside, the double-height covered terrace features a Portuguese marble swimming pool, barbecue table and fully serviced outdoor kitchen.

ST TROPEZ

€14,950,000 could see you and yours looking down over the Bay of St Tropez from a newly built residence in Roule des Plages. Occupying what Christie's International affiliate Michael Zingraf (00-33-493 397 777) describes as 'a ravishing flat plot of land', this south-facing property extends to 650 square metres over three floors. It has eight bedroom suites, two formal receptions, a home cinema, wine cellar, fitness room, Jacuzzi and heated swimming pool; a one-bedroom caretaker's apartment affords lock up and leave' appeal.





LAKE COMO

Located on the western shores of Lake Como, a few miles from Cernobbio and Laglio, the quiet medieval village of Brienno ranks among the area's best-kept secrets. Neighbouring the ancient church of Saint Anne, Ca'Nova promises 'to blend modern luxury and tradition right on the lake'. Designed by Edward Williams Architects (whose founding partner worked on Glyndebourne and Goodwood), it is scheduled for completion next spring and available through Savills (020-7106 3740) for €2,900,000. Offering 400 square metres of sixbedroom accommodation over six storeys (with a lift), it enjoys direct access to the water as well as a private berth in Brienno's marina.

PUERTO ANDRATX

With a terrace perfect for sunset parties, and superb views across Puerto Andratx, this Bauhausstyle villa was also a finalist of the Majorcan Architect Award 2014. Extending to 578 square metres with a further 411 square metres of terraces, these include the rooftop terrace bar and barbecue area, an LED-lit infinity pool and verandas to the four bedroom suites. Available through Engel & Volkers (00-34-971 674 780) for €9,500,000,

this is the highest house on 'Siurell Mountain' with views to the port (its restaurants are within a seven-minute walk), the sea and the mountains towards Andratx

Valley.



KITZBUHEL

High society is very much 'at home' in the world-famous winter sports and golf metropolis of Kitzbühel. The town's playground status started with the Grand Hotel that opened in 1903 and was frequented by English and other European aristocrats throughout the First and Second World Wars. Situated next to the former hotel in its original grounds, The Grand comprises five modern apartments within a newly built, traditional timber chalet. Due for completion this December, prices range through First Kitzbühel (00-43-535 666 604) from €2,780,000 for a 294 square metre apartment with two bedrooms and bathrooms, to €7,900,000 for the 548 square metre penthouse with five bedroom suites. The residence sports its own wellness centre with a 20 metre swimming pool, sauna, Turkish steam bath and whirlpool. The five apartments also share a home cinema, billiard room, underground parking and views of the Hahnenkamm where the World Cup Alpine ski races are hosted.

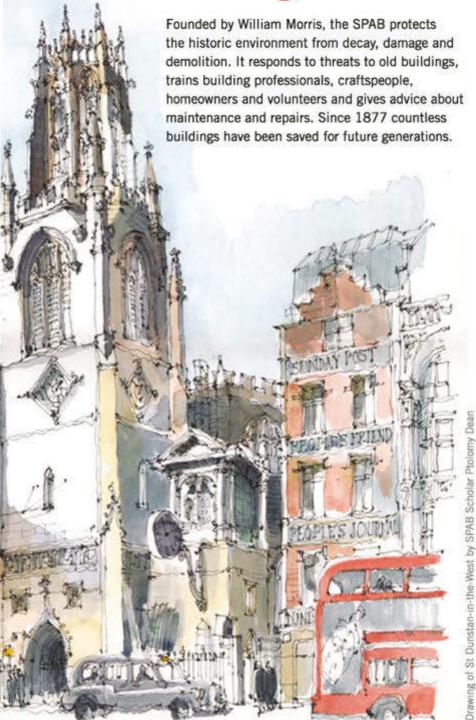
PORTO HELI

For those who aspire to sleep all day and party all night', the Nikki Beach Resort and Spa at Porto Heli opened last summer in one of the most exclusive settings on the 'Greek Riviera'. Affording panoramic views of the Aegean Sea from almost every corner, this super-chic boutique resort comprises 17 hotel suites and 49 fully furnished Nikki Beach branded 'lifestyle residences' that are for sale on renewable 60 year leases. Spanning from 50 to 97 square metres, each one has a balcony or terrace; those on the ground floor also have private pools, while those on the top storey have a sun deck and Jacuzzi. Priced from €400,000 to €800,000, owners enjoy 60 days usage (including 20 days in high season) and receive 50 per cent of rental income from the rest of the vear. Nikki Beach (00-30-21 06 56 04 50) is the only beach club and restaurant currently operating in the region. It's also the only hotel with direct access to the sea and is easily accessible from Athens.



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LIVING LUXURY

Demand for long-term rental property is higher than ever, especially in SW3. Catriona Gray looks at how Sloane Stanley estate is leading the way in a fresh approach to high-end letting

The last decade has seen the rise of the luxury rental in Chelsea. With its many boutiques and assortment of charming cafes and restaurants, SW3 combines a high standard of living with a colourful artistic history. Chelsea has long been the haunt of artists, musicians and writers - as can be seen by the dozens of blue plaques that mark the former residences of some very famous inhabitants. With property prices soaring in one of London's most desirable areas, the demand for homes to let has never been so strong. Sloane Stanley is one of the estates that owns parts of this area and is leading the way in its innovative approach in raising the bar for premium rentals - taking its cue from the history of the area, to create homes that have atmosphere and personality. 'We want to create rentals that have character as well being presented to an extremely high standard,' says Paula Brockway of Sloane Stanley. 'When you rent a property, it becomes your home and we want to create interiors that are exceptional.'

As a result, Sloane Stanley has been trying something new: treating each of their rental properties as a separate project and decorating each one in a highly individual way. The flat shown here is a perfect example, located in a cobbled mews in the heart of Chelsea. The interiors of this rental property were completely reconfigured in order to make the most of the space. It now has a self-contained studio for staff or visitors, three en-suite bedrooms set over two floors, a roof terrace and an impressive living area, which manages to incorporate both a state-of-the-art television room and a more traditional sitting room beyond it. A high-spec heating system has eliminated the need for radiators; clever lighting creates atmosphere; curtains open at the touch of a button; and care has been taken to make the building energy efficient — such as installing solar panels on the roof. 'We wanted to create a stylish interior for people too busy to do it themselves,' explains Paula.

The result is a property that is ready to move into, yet has had all the care and attention that traditionally is only lavished on a much-loved family home. The building was converted by Tyler Mandic, which has extensive experience working on property in the heart of London, whilst the interiors were furnished by Milc through Savills. Sloane Stanley is currently working on several other rental properties in Chelsea, each with its own unique atmosphere. With properties such as this coming onto the market, the phenomenon of long-term renting is easy to explain: if you found a place like this, you'd simply never leave.

For details of residential lettings offered by Sloane Stanley, call 020-7349 7900 or visit www.sloanestanley.com







PROPERTY

NOTEBOOK

Catriona Gray looks at desirable property at home and abroad



Few places are as quintessentially English as Ascot. As well as its famous racecourse, its picturesque location and excellent schools make it a property-seekers dream. Bewley Homes have raised the stakes with two fabulous properties. Byways is a mansion with six bedrooms, a self-contained annexe and landscaped gardens – perfect for large families. If you'd prefer a penthouse, then Montrose Court provides plenty of space for those seeking to live the high life. Bewley Homes: 0845-686 8600; www.bewley.co.uk



Wings of a dove

Buyers from across the globe are attracted to Bath for its spectacular Georgian architecture and attractive lifestyle. With over 40 years in the property industry behind them, Sarah Dedakis and Christine Penny of Dovetail Properties are well placed to help potential buyers. Whether you are seeking an investment property, building a buy-to-let portfolio or simply want an outstanding place to live, the duo's wealth of local knowledge, contacts and experience can certainly open doors. For more information, visit www.dovetailproperties.co.uk



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1 The drawing room of hotelier and

interior designer Kit Kemp's London

house. 2 A carved stool from Tribal

Gathering. 4 Kit designed 'Ozone'

for Christopher Farr Cloth. 6 From

top: 'Bleached Linen', £21.29 for 2.5

litres matt emulsion, from Dulux;

Pod', both £39 for 2.5 litres matt

emulsion, from Designers Guild

'Flame Red' and 'Cardamom

The dos and don'ts of decorating, according to

Kit Kemp

The best of home decorating should be applied, lavishly, to hotel design. People are looking for a certain homeliness in a hotel, a fact that a lot of hotel designers miss (1) • I can't bear interiors that follow a theme, such as making a room look like a school gym or a gentleman's club; it is often generic and unoriginal • Avoid too many synthetic fabrics; natural fabrics have an authenticity and atmosphere that synthetics have yet to achieve • Designs that are, or look, handcrafted add life to a room. I use a lot of folk art in my designs (2). And Chester Jones has a great skill for combining classical influence with tribal art - as seen in this French sitting room (3) • Designing your own furniture and textiles gives your spaces originality. I love the textiles that I've designed myself, such as 'Ozone' with Christopher Farr Cloth (4), and 'Suzani' with Chelsea Textiles • Never overlook, or feel above, the practical details. I once bought an armoire that wouldn't fit through the bedroom door. We had to take it to pieces and put it back together - not ideal • Use directional lighting and keep it at low level. Don't accentuate bald patches on the top of people's heads • Don't forget the function and point of a room. My favourite room of ours is the drawing room at the Covent Garden Hotel (5). It has woodpanelled walls and feels comfortable in every season. It's big enough for receptions but still cosy enough to sit by the fire and read a good book. • Always balance strong colours with gentle ones - for example, this palette of 'Bleached Linen' by Dulux, and 'Flame Red'

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